Hafa Adai!

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CMS team here to resurvey CHC

» Hospital to receive concerns, updates on Friday from CMS

» Tudela: CMS satisfied with one hospital deficiency addressed

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Eighteen days after confirming the Commonwealth Health Center's corrective action plan, a three-member team from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services made a surprise visit to the hospital yesterday morning.

According to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. hospital administrator Jess M. Tudela, the CMS team is here to resurvey the hospital.

See CMS on Page 4

Pai commits to 2nd term if reappointed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Public Auditor Michael Pai said yesterday he is committed to serving a second term if Gov. Eloy S. Inos reappoints him. Some lawmakers separately interviewed yesterday said they are looking forward to Pai's reappointment, pointing out that under his leadership the Office of the Public Auditor has successfully gone after those who have committed corruption and other wrongdoings in public office, including a former governor and a former attorney general.

» Dela Cruz mulls making public auditor an elected post

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CUC lowers LEAC rate for power

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

» Consumers will see a drop in their power bills

Expect to see lower power billings in the months ahead after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday afternoon that it is reducing its levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC rate, effective Sept. 1.

"CUC is able to reduce the fuel charge and consumers will see a drop in their power bills," said CUC executive

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Record-breaking 17,740 CNMI voters

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A record-breaking total of 17,740 individuals are registered to vote in the CNMI's Nov. 4 general elections, Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero confirmed yesterday.

Guerrero said this is the final number as voter registration ended on Friday.

While 17,740 were registered to vote, this does not necessarily mean

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SPECIAL ELECTION

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos proclaims Friday a Nov. 4 special election to fill a vacancy at the Senate representing Saipan, with the date coinciding with the general elections to help save the government nearly $100,000. At the same time, the governor signed into law a bill that essentially prohibits those who were already certified to run for the two Saipan senatorial seats in the general elections from also running in the special poll to fill a Senate seat vacated by now independent lieutenant governor bet Ray Yumul.

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Local

CPUC tables large commercial incentive rate proposal

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

What could've given the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. a boost in sales due to an experimental incentive rate for large commercial customers to return to CUC's grid has been tabled once again.

"I ask that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission table the experimental tariff rider incentive rate because we need the input and comments of large commercial customers before approval," said CPUC hearing examiner Harry Boertzel.

All three CPUC commissioners voted to hold off the contract for further review by potential large commercial customers by the end of this month.

"Before we can approve this, Boertzel's recommendation is to have the large commercial customers review the contract and proposed incentive rate net benefit so that we can reach a decision by the end of this month," CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero said.

CUC consultant, economist.com managing director Robert Young, was concerned, however, over the amount of time CUC and CPUC has already invested in coming up with the proposal.

The standby charge was among the rate petitions CUC filed with the CPUC in July last year; it was supposed to be implemented in October 2013. The proposal was snagged by delays in succeeding months and was eventually withdrawn by CUC's new board on April 14, 2014.

At the time, CUC's then-chief financial officer Charles Warren said that CUC, CPUC, Georgetown Consulting Group, economist.com, and large commercial customers were working on an introductory rate.

Consultants for both CPUC and CUC had approved a modified incentive rate for CUC's existing commercial rate and required CUC to submit a contract by July 31, 2014. After some initial concerns were ironed out, Georgetown recommended the new rate for approval on Thursday last week.

The proposed contract will cover large commercial customers locating, expanding, or returning their entire load to CUC's distribution system on all three islands in the CNMI.

Customers availing of this incentive rate must agree to remain full CUC customers for the four-year duration of the IR term.

The contract is also open to new participants for a window of four months from the time it is approved.

Commercial customers are qualified for the new rate if they have a generation capacity of 400kW or greater and generating 90 percent or more of their annual electric needs; commercial customers that expand their existing facility that results in an increase in load of 200kW or greater or expand their hotel by 75 rooms or greater; or new commercial customers with electric generation capacity of 400kW or greater.

The four-year incentive rate will provide a reduction of 8.3 cents per kWh from CUC's commercial electric base rate from the date the customer starts purchasing electricity.

NMI gets warm welcome at Nippon Domannaka Festival

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Northern Mariana Islands delegation to the 16th Annual Nippon Domannaka Festival joined the event parade on Aug. 30, 2014, in Nagoya, Japan.

The Northern Mariana Islands delegation received a warm welcome at the 16th Annual Nippon Domannaka Festival in Nagoya, Japan last weekend, Aug. 29-31, taking advantage of the opportunity to promote the islands to potential visitors.

Approximately 40,000 dancers representing 209 teams performed for an estimated 2.2 million visitors during the festival, which was spread across 20 stages throughout the city. The event captured a nationwide audience through media coverage, and nearly 50,000 brochures from the CNMI, including information about Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were issued during the three-day period.

The NMI delegation of indigenous Carolinian dancers joined dance troupes from Hokkaido in the north to Fukuoka in the south, as well as several overseas groups.

Saipan Mayor Marian Tudela and 2014 Miss Liberation Queen Pressel Camacho also attended and received media coverage of their meeting with the Nagoya Mayor Takashi Kawamura.

"Mayor Kawamura extended his appreciation to Mayor Tudela for joining this year's event," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Nagoya appreciates the CNMI's presence in the dance festival, a program undertaken 13 years ago to foster goodwill with the city through cultural exchange. Once again, we have been successful in receiving free media exposure for the NMI through our participation in this event. We commend Team PDI director Gordon Marciano and the CNMI Domatsuri team for continuing to make this event a success."

IT&E, Pacific Trading Co., Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc., KKMP, and the Saipan Mayor's Office also supported the CNMI's participation in the event. ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Northern Mariana Islands delegation to the 16th Annual Nippon Domannaka Festival on Aug. 29-31, 2014, are greeted by supporters in Nagoya, Japan.

Iwai, Taimanao accepted into NSHSS

Iwai

Taimanao

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Two Mount Carmel School students were recently accepted into the prestigious National Society of High School Scholars.

Emiri Iwai and Janika Taimanao are currently juniors at the sole Catholic high school on Saipan and received the news of their acceptance into the program last month.

According to the NSHSS website, members of the organization are expected to strive for excellence in their academic endeavors and use their knowledge and wisdom to the best of their ability for the betterment of the global community.

Iwai, a student of Mount Carmel since the 6th grade, is not only accomplished academically but also dedicates much of her time to extracurricular activities. She is involved in the school's notable Theater Club as business manager, is a member of the Journalism Club, is business manager for MCS' Year Book Club, and was inducted last year into the local chapter of the high school National Honor Society.

"It is an honor to be a part of the organization," she said. "I am grateful to my school for giving me such a good education with a strong Catholic foundation in order for me to achieve academic success in my life."

The 15-year-old plans to pursue a degree in business after high school and hopes to one day own and run a business of her own on island.

She is the daughter of Mikie Iwai.

Fellow junior Janika Taimanao, for her part, said that being a part of NSHSS "makes me feel like I have more opportunities of getting into great colleges that fit my needs."

Taimanao, who has attended MCS for eight years, is not only an active member of her school's theater club and journalism program, but is an avid basketball, volleyball, softball, and outrigger sports athlete.

She plans on studying history in college while taking part in college level theater and sports.

Taimanao is the daughter of Francis and Frances Taimanao

US GOVT RESTS ITS CASE IN ROBERTO TRIAL

Drama unfolds anew during alleged victim's mom's testimony

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

»Mother says she had sexual relationship with Roberto, that defendant gave her drugs

Drama unfolded anew yesterday in the ongoing jury trial of Raymond B. Roberto when the mother of one of three alleged victims yelled at Roberto's lawyer, Joaquin Torres, and accused Roberto of being a pedophile during her testimony in federal court.

The separate incidents prompted U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to direct the jurors to leave the courtroom and call the lawyers for sidebar discussions. The judge later called for an early recess at 4:30pm and told the jurors to return today, Tuesday.

The defense counsel began calling yesterday morning their own witnesses, including the mother of one of three alleged victims, after Assistant U.S. Attorney Rami S. Badawy rested the prosecution's case.

During direct examination, Torres asked the 41-year-old mother about her sexual relationship with the 41-year-old Roberto. The mother replied that it's none of Torres' business and that his client, Roberto, is a pedophile. The mother was then escorted out of the courtroom.

After several minutes, the trial resumed and the mother returned to the witness stand.

Without the presence of the jurors, Manglona asked the mother if she's fine now, to which the witness said yes. Manglona then explained the proceedings to the mother, telling her that although this is an emotional time for her, order should be maintained in court to continue the process.

The judge then called the jurors, explained to them what happened and instructed them that the mother's statements about Roberto being a pedophile are stricken from the record.

Torres then continued questioning the mother, who appeared calm by that time.

Later in her testimony, the mother recalled that she and Roberto went to Parkville Motel in Gualo Rai in August 2013 and that it was daytime, to which Torres said, "Daytime? Wow!"

The mother called out Torres for being sarcastic. When Torres said he's not, she snapped: "Yes, you are!"

Manglona immediately intervened and asked Torres not to give commentaries.

The mother then stated that she does not remember some dates or incidents because she was a drug addict. "Your client was giving me drugs!" she told Torres.

Manglona immediately struck out that part of the mother's statement.

The mother became emotional again when she recalled that her daughter would lie to her in small things, but not "like this" with Roberto.

The mother started crying and confronted Torres, "Are you for real? Are you out of your mind?" The witness was then escorted out of the courtroom. The jurors were asked to leave the courtroom and Manglona called for a sidebar discussion again.

After a few minutes, the mother was back on the witness stand, but Manglona ordered another recess.

In her testimony, the mother said that she and Roberto have had a sexual relationship since 2007. She disclosed that they had sex at Parkville Motel and at Roberto's farm.

Before the mother's testimony yesterday, the defense called police detectives Catherine B. Pangelinan, Rhonda John, and Jesse Dubrall regarding their interviews on the alleged victims.

Roberto is on trial for three counts of enticing three minors to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

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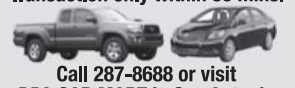
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PSS: $7.6M more needed to meet the standard teacher-student ratio

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

»Needs for teachers 'more pronounced' in high school

The Public School System would need about $7.6 million more in yearly appropriations to pay for the 200 or more teachers needed to meet the Board of Education-mandated teacher-student ratio of 25:1—with more of those teachers needed for high schools—according to PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburg.

"That would take us back to fiscal year '11," he said in an interview.

According to a PSS statement last Friday, the last year PSS met the BOE teacher-student ratio was in school year 2011-2012—with a ratio of 24:1.

Thornburg got the $7.6 million figure by taking into the account the $38,000 a teacher would earn with benefits during a school year—running that times the 200 teachers PSS needs.

On the PSS' budget increase of around $1.1 million—approved by the Legislature in their budget bill last week—Thornburg estimates that it would allow PSS to hire 29 more teachers.

"It'd help," he said.

He noted, however, that recruiting teachers in September or October is not the best time, as he said the best time to do so for preparation for a school year would be from December to March the year prior.

"There's been plenty of studies from the National Center for Education Statistics that state if you're recruiting between December and March you should be able to get the teachers you need," he said.

He said the "really big need" according to PSS data is teachers in language arts, chemistry, and environmental sciences.

"That's where the real need is," he said, adding that the need "is much more pronounced" in the islands' high schools.

"We have a college here that graduates about 20 in elementary education every year. Many of them are teacher aides that have gone to get a BA, but the college doesn't graduate anybody, not even one, with a degree in math, in physics," he said.

He noted that students who want to be chemistry teachers have to go off-island to get a degree.

When asked about the strain or added costs it takes PSS to recruit teachers off-island, he noted competitiveness among schools as a factor.

"What it is, is your competing with every school district in the United States, and again if they're out recruiting in December to March [then] that's when we need to go," he said.

PSS noted last Friday a 27:1 teacher-student ratio for last school year. Earlier, it was reported that this year's ratio is estimated at around 30:1, according to Derek Sasamato, PSS director of finance and budget.

Search effort suspended for missing fisherman near Chuuk

CHUUK, Federated States of Micronesia—Search efforts have been suspended for the fisherman reported missing 146 nautical miles southwest of Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam received authorization to suspend search efforts from U.S. Coast Guard District 14 after spending five days coordinating search efforts for the missing fisherman. Notifications were made to the fisherman's family as well as to FSM government officials, prior to suspension.

A total of 5,188 square nautical miles were searched by vessels and aircraft. Search platforms included the fishing vessel *WAKABA MARU 7*, fishing vessel *WAKABA MARU 4*, a fishing support helicopter, a U.S. Navy P-3 aircraft from Kadena Air Base located in Japan, and a U.S. Coast Guard C-130 from Air Station Barbers Point located in Hawaii. ***(USCG)***

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Longtime govt counsel Jim Stump moves to Triple J

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Longtime CNMI government counsel James "Jim" Stump, who was instrumental in the application and review process for Saipan's first casino license, has moved to the private sector.

Stump started his new job as legal counsel for Triple J Enterprises last week. As government counsel, Stump served as the governor's special counsel and the Commonwealth Lottery Commission's counsel, among other things.

Jay Santos, general manager for Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and Triple J Truckload Store, confirmed yesterday that Stump began working as legal counsel for Triple J on Sept. 2.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' acting press secretary Ivan Blanco separately confirmed Stump's resignation from government.

"The government appreciates Mr. Stump's long service and we wish him well in his new post in the private sector," Blanco said.

Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar separately said yesterday that Stump is "calm and collected even though he's in the middle of a storm."

Igisomar, as chairman of the Lottery Commission that reviewed and granted an exclusive Saipan casino license, worked closely with Stump for months. Igisomar spoke of Stump's professionalism, determination, and knowledge.

Igisomar added that Stump was instrumental in helping the Lottery Commission weather storms as they reviewed the applications for the casino license and related matters.

"He's very strong and determined. I also wish him well in his new job," Igisomar said.

CUC

From Page 1

director Alan Fletcher.

LEAC represents the fuel component of a power bill and accounts for 70 percent of electric rates on power bills.

CUC's announcement translates to a drop of about1.5 cents per kWh.

CUC noted that there has been a "downward trend" in the oil markets for the past weeks, with the August change "piercing" the 4.5 percent threshold and allowing the decrease in the fuel charge.

The current LEAC rate of $.30426 per kWh will go down to $.28902 per kWh. The average residential account using 500 kWh will see a decrease of about $7.62 per month.

Fletcher said the LEAC rate is one of two components of a power bill. "It is used for fuel purchases, while the second rate component is the electric base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt servicing," he said.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission last month allowed CUC to adjust the LEAC charge every month, instead of every six months, which will allow CUC to adjust monthly pricing based on the "Means of Platts Singapore" or MOPS' monthly pricing.

Fletcher said that they are hopeful that the oil markets continue the trend as lower fuel prices directly translates into lower power bills for consumers.

"The only way to truly affect the overall rate is to switch our fuel source. This is one of the main drivers of the Integrated Resource Planning that is now underway," Fletcher said in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

The integrated resource plan's purpose is to determine the best combination of both base-load and renewable energy sources capable of providing reliable power at the lowest price to consumers. CUC is now working with Leidos Engineering LLC on this.

Leidos will be conducting an independent third-party technical evaluation and monitoring of the proposals set by CUC for a most "cost-effective, long-term" energy solution for consumers.

Stakeholders will be meeting on the integrated resource plan this Thursday, Sept. 11.

PAI

From Page 1

The governor confirmed Saturday he has checked a few individuals for the public auditor's post, but clarified that he has not decided yet whether to reappoint or replace Pai.

Pai's six-year term as CNMI public auditor ends on Oct. 26, just a few days before the Nov. 4 general elections.

"I have told the governor my desire to be committed to a second term and if he sees fit to reappoint me, I'm ready to continue working," Pai said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* at his office on Capital Hill yesterday.

Pai made it clear that the decision rests with the governor.

House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday if Pai isn't reappointed, he will be introducing a legislative initiative that will make the public auditor position an elected one, like what he did with the attorney general post.

Because of Dela Cruz's previous initiative, the CNMI will elect for the first time their attorney general on Nov. 4.

"I think that Mr. Pai has demonstrated true professionalism within the Office of the Public Auditor. I feel that he should be reappointed by this administration," Dela Cruz said yesterday.

The governor's appointment of a public auditor requires the advice and consent of each chamber of the CNMI Legislature.

Pai said he would like to "continue the changes that we're implementing in the office to do a better job in our auditing and investigative work."

In a few meetings over the last two to three months between the public auditor and the governor, Pai said he had told the governor of his commitment to a second term if reappointed.

The governor said he will be meeting with Pai in the next week or two to discuss this and other matters related to OPA.

Pai said he looks forward to that meeting with the governor about the latter's plans for OPA and "whether or not I will be reappointed."

"It's the governor's choice if he wants to seek other candidates. That's perfectly within his rights. I don't feel anything one way or the other," Pai added.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday Pai has been a "fair" public auditor over the past six years.

Yumul, however, acknowledged that the decision to reappoint Pai rests with the Inos administration.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) separately said Pai "should be reappointed," citing his strong belief that Pai "has done an excellent job."

But just like other lawmakers' statements, Tebuteb said reappointment is the governor's prerogative.

Pai was appointed by Inos' predecessor, former governor Benigno R. Fitial, the first CNMI governor to be impeached by the House of Representatives for corruption, felony and neglect of duty. Fitial resigned days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate. A corruption case against Fitial is still ongoing, with OPA's legal counsel George Hasselback as special prosecutor.

With Pai at the helm of OPA, other high-profile corruption cases were pursued including those involving then-attorney general Edward T. Buckingham.

Buckingham was found guilty of all public corruption charges except one and was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison, all suspended. He is the CNMI's first attorney general to be found guilty of corruption charges.

Glen Hunter, a concerned citizen, said yesterday it was "frustrating" to know that "the rumors circulating are true"—that the governor is looking for other candidates to fill the public auditor position.

"Many in the community have had deep concerns about the long and tight relationship shared between Governor Inos and the former impeached Governor Fitial—a relationship that spans decades and is interlaced in close private and public positions. It is my sincere belief that had Pai not been the public auditor, there is a strong chance Fitial would still be the sitting governor with Inos still sitting by him," Hunter said.

Pai, in an interview yesterday, believes that OPA has become more proactive and tries to maintain that or even more proactive especially in its auditing work.

The public auditor also spoke about OPA's independence.

"From what I've seen during my term, so far everybody has been conducting their work and themselves very independently," he added.

Hunter said "no other public authority rose to challenge the abuses of public trust committed by Fitial other than that of OPA under Pai's guidance."

"When other public officials ignored the people's calls for justice, Pai's team took the lead in a valiant attempt to restore integrity in our government," Hunter reiterated.

Hunter said "Inos' silence while he was Fitial's lieutenant was upsetting to the public while they were on the roadsides and pleading for accountability but to find out now that there is an attempt to replace Pai is far more disturbing."

"I would encourage everyone in the community to… join me in asking that Pai be retained. The people continue to watch and should be heard," Hunter added.

The governor said Saturday that Pai's reappointment or replacement "depends on many things" and "an open question right now." Inos said he has "a few names in mind" that he's not ready to disclose yet.

The law and the Constitution are silent as to when the governor should decide to reappoint or make a new appointment for the public auditor's position when the current term is drawing near.

Inos, when asked whether he's satisfied with Pai's performance, declined to comment. Again, when asked why it wouldn't be Pai again, he countered, "Or why him again?"

OPA currently has 14 employees including the public auditor himself, two legal counsels, and auditors. Years back, OPA had a staff of about 30 individuals.

Among OPA's ongoing performance audits involve the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the Department of Public Safety's evidence room, and the Department of Finance's Division of Customs Service.

Pai has been a certified public accountant for more than 20 years. He attended the University of Hawaii, where he completed degrees in engineering and business administration. He put up his own accounting firm in 1986, after working for a number of corporations and an accounting firm. He was also a shareholder for some businesses based in Guam, Minnesota, and Saipan.

VOTERS

From Page 1

that all of them would actually cast their votes.

"We've averaged a voter turnout of mid-70 percent to mid-80 percent, higher than national average in voter turnout, most especially during gubernatorial elections," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune.*

U.S. national election voter turnout averages below 60 percent since at least 1972.

Besides the Nov. 4 general elections, the CNMI will also have a special election for a Saipan senatorial seat on the same day per Gov. Eloy S. Inos' Sept. 5 proclamation.

The CNMI is also headed for a third election in November—that of a gubernatorial runoff race if none of the four gubernatorial teams get at least 50 percent plus one of the votes cast.

It's only this year that the number of CNMI registered voters breached the 17,000-mark. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Guerrero's predecessor as election commission executive director, also confirmed this.

In the 2009 general elections, there were 16,146 registered voters. During the 2005 general elections, the number was 15,118.

Of the 17,740 registered CNMI voters, over 27 percent or 4,860 is from election district 1 on Saipan covering San Antonio, San Vicente, and Koblerville.

Nearly 20 percent or 3,519 are from election district 3, which covers San Jose/Oleai and Garapan.

Election Commission data also shows that election district 5 or Kagman has 2,793 registered voters, followed by election district 4 with 1,792. Election district 4 covers Tanapag, San Roque, Capital Hill, and the Northern Islands.

Rota or election district 7 has 1,762 registered voters, while Tinian or election district 6 has 1,561.

The smallest election district, 2, or the Chalan Kanoa/Susupe area, has 1,453 registered voters.

CMS

From Page 1

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, hinted in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*, that she expects a CMS team to visit the hospital to see if the corrective plans have been addressed and to see what the hospital is working on.

Muna is off-island at this time; according to CHCC, she is on leave.

Tudela said that they did an entrance conference yesterday at 8:30am and CMS will do an exit conference on Friday afternoon. Three members of the current CMS resurvey team were part of the five that visited CHCC in the past, according to Tudela.

"So far the CMS surveying team came with a list of items that they wanted and we are currently giving it to them," he said.

Several of the items that Tudela mentioned were the organizational chart, employees that include new hires, physicians, list of patients admitted, ancillary services, and services of medical staff.

Tudela said that CMS is doing the resurvey in line with the hospital's application to have its Condition of Participation with the Medicare and Medicaid programs recertified.

CMS put off its decision on CHCC's recertification in mid-January this year and again on June 27 due to lingering concerns. A letter to Muña dated June 25 gave CHCC another five months to correct issues previously cited by CMS.

In the June 25 letter to Muña, CMS gave CHCC more time to demonstrate capacity and commitment to achieve and sustain compliance with all Conditions of Participation, in consideration of the extent of the deficiencies, complexity of making fundamental, systemic changes, and in recognition of the importance of maintaining access to hospital services for CNMI residents.

The prospective date of termination of CHCC's Medicare provider's agreement was extended to Nov. 14, 2014.

"After they had accepted the plan of correction they are doing a follow up and will probably focus on the deficiencies," Tudela said. "The CMS surveyed the clinic today [outpatients, family care clinic] and they were satisfied with the deficiency being addressed."

CMS visited CHC in September last year and identified 13 deficiencies at the hospital. In January this year, CMS found that only four citations were considered satisfied and that nine other deficiencies remain unresolved.

In an earlier interview, Muña said that they have addressed these concerns but are still working on a few issues, one being the hospital's infrastructure.

Suspected 'ice' supplier possibly suffering from brain injury

»Torres seeks competency exam for defendant

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Yu Hua Wang, the alleged second in command of an organization of drug suppliers on Saipan, has been complaining of severe headaches and pain while in detention, affecting his understanding of documents that were being reviewed with him by his lawyer.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, court-appointed counsel for Wang, disclosed that Wang's pretrial services evaluation indicates a traumatic brain injury from an assault several years ago.

On Thursday, Torres asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order a competency examination to evaluate Wang's ability to understand the proceedings and assist his attorney with his case.

"Because Wang's mental competency is at issue, he requests that the deadline to file any pretrial motions and the jury trial, currently set for Sept. 22, 2014, at 9am, be vacated until the results of any examination are provided and after the competency hearing, if any," the lawyer said.

At Friday's hearing on the motion, Assistant U.S. Attorney Garth Backe, counsel for the U.S. government, did not object.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona approved the competency evaluation and set the competency hearing on Oct. 29, 2014.

Manglona also vacated the jury trial on Sept. 22, 2014, and any other deadlines imposed until the evaluation of Wang's competency is completed.

In his motion, Torres said since he started representing Wang in this case, Wang has been complaining of severe headaches and pain.

He said court-appointed translator Jean Shi has had to review and translate documents several times due to Wang's difficulty in understanding and following the documents being reviewed with him.

Recently, Torres said, Wang and other family members reiterated a growing concern about his headaches and pain.

Torres said that, upon being told of those concerns, Don Hall of the U.S. Marshals Service stated that Wang would be given treatment after his sentencing but that the Department of Corrections did have a physician who had evaluated Wang and did not recommend any further referral for treatment.

Torres said Shi went to DOC on Wednesday to translate a proposed document to Wang, during which Wang told Shi that he could not think and could not understand anything due to his severe head pain and headaches.

Torres said he relayed this to the U.S. Marshals Service for possible further determination as to Wang's condition.

Torres said that on Thursday at 8am, he, along with Shi, visited Wang to ascertain his condition. In that meeting, Wang related his inability to understand any document being translated, that he could not think, and that he could not make any decision.

Wang reported that he has severe head pain and that he had fainted at DOC on a couple of occasions.

Torres said a person may not be tried for an offense if, at any time during the proceedings, the defendant lacks capacity to consult with his attorney "with a reasonable degree of rational understanding" as well as be able to understand the facts and nature of his case.

Torres asked for the mental competency examination to be conducted by a licensed forensic psychiatrist, and if necessary, by more than one such examiner. If necessary, Torres asked that Wang be temporarily placed in a psychiatric or treatment facility for the examination for a period not to exceed 45 days.

Wang has already been told that Dr. Jeremy Richards, a Commonwealth Health Center psychiatrist, may be available to conduct this examination or Dr. Laura Post of Marianas Psychiatric Services.

Last March, Manglona ordered Wang's continued detention, pending further proceedings of his case.

Manglona established that based on evidence presented, Wang poses a flight risk as she also noted that the big amount of methamphetamine or "ice" (135.6 gross grams) involved in the case implicates a serious punishment.

Wang has a daughter who was last reported to be in the custody of the Division of Youth Services.

Wang was among seven persons arrested in February for alleged "ice" distribution. He pleaded not guilty.

PLANNING COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of planning committee for the International Festival of Cultures met on Sept. 3, 2014, at the Marianas Visitors Authority office to finalize plans for the event, which kicks off Sept. 13, 2014, at Paseo de Marianas on Saipan. Seated from left are Celia Mercado, Tokie Mojica, Hideaki Sawada, Flowerpot Salas, Fe Mcmahon, Melia Johnson, and Inos Kenio. Standing from left are Yoshiku Song, Marie Borlongan, Sonia Siwa, Hiroki Tenorio, Misako Kamata, Gordon Marciano, Nancy Ong, Mario Mayuga, Rakibul Islam, and Ryan Calvo. Not pictured are Carol Hosono, Melrosa Rebuenog, Ho Joon Joo, Park Jun Soo, Gloriana Teuira, Olive Yana, and Ta Bun Kuy.

'NMI govt pays $24.5M of required $25M minimum annual payment'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

- Govt made timely quarterly payments
- Fund investments gains from 2 quarters reach $3.8M

To date, the CNMI government has paid $24.5 million of the $25 million minimum annual payment due under the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action. The government has also made timely quarterly payments.

In her combined second and third quarter report for fiscal year 2014 filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Sunday, NMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C.H. Tang also disclosed, among other things, that gains from the Fund's investments from these two quarters were $3.8 million and that as of Aug. 31, 2014, the value of the investments was about $98.5 million.

On the government payments, Tang said there is a balance of $500,000 due for fiscal year 2014, which will be paid before Sept. 30, 2014.

"The Settlement Fund members have received their pensions in a timely manner," she noted.

In addition to the 75 percent pension payments, Tang said the passage of the casino law enabled the government to obtain funding to pay the 25-percent that was cut under the Johnson's settlement agreement.

The casino law made available to the government $30 million from an exclusive license fee to pay the 25-percent payment to Settlement Fund members, and interest due under Public Laws 17-82 and 18-02.

Tang said the central government and the autonomous agencies are required to submit employer contributions to the Settlement Fund.

She said all autonomous agencies are current through Aug. 9, 2014, except for the Public School System, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and Northern Marianas College.

Tang said PSS and CHC are cooperating and working with the Settlement Fund to catch up.

NMC, on the other hand, has not paid the full amount of the employer taxes required in a provision in the settlement agreement, Tang said.

In fact, Tang said that NMC has refused to comply with the settlement agreement provision that states that "the CNMI and autonomous agencies shall make supplemental payments to the Settlement Fund in the amount of the employer contributions for these Settlement Class members at the same contribution rates they were paying as of June 26, 2013."

"NMC was notified of this requirement and still refused to pay the delinquent balance," she said.

On investment strategy, Tang said the investment return as of Aug. 31, 2014, is 4.35 percent, and is on track with the Settlement Fund's investment policy.

The value of the Settlement Fund's investment assets at the beginning of the second quarter was $105 million.

While there were draws during the second and third quarter of about $6 million, Tang said the gains from investments of $3.8 million from these two quarters helped offset the draws.

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law
Plata Drive Whispering Palms
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsmile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner: Emerenciana D. Chinen

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:	**Civil Action No. 14-0138**
TOSHINORI CHINEN	**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO ADMIT WILL INTO PROBATE PROCEEDINGS/**
Decedent.	**TO OPEN ESTATE ACCOUNT/**
	TO APPOINT EMERENCIANA D. CHINEN EXECUTRIX
	Date: SEPTEMBER 30, 2014
	Time: 1:30 P.M.
	Judge: DAVID A. WISEMAN

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE TOSHINORI CHINEN OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Emerenciana D. Chinen, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the following: Petition to Admit Will into Probate Proceedings; to Open Estate Account; and her appointment as Executrix for the Estate of Toshinori Chinen, Decedent. The attorney for Petitioner is **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition by **Emerenciana D. Chinen**, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.**, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, *Guma' Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Deceased or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this 3rd day of July, 2014.

/s/ Kristy R. Diaz
Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
AMENDMENT #02

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board scheduled on Thursday, September 11, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. is moved to **Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. **PRELIMARY MATTERS**
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda
  d. Adoption of Minutes
    i. August 20, 2014 Special Board Meeting Minutes
II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
III. **NEW BUSINESS**
  a. Blue Water Homes Return and Reallocation
  b. Direct Family Loan Supplemental
  c. Loan Modification
  d. Salary Adjustment Act
IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
  a. NMHC's Policies and Procedures
    1. CDBG
    2. Program and Housing Division
    3. Mortgage & Credit Division
    4. QAP 2015/16
V. **LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**
VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
VII. **OTHER MATTERS**
VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

EARN UP TO 8 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE) CREDITS ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- ETHICS
- FRAUD
- COSO - INTERNAL CONTROL INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK - 2013
- HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE CLOUD
- GET A HANDLE ON INTERNAL CONTROLS
- VISUAL WRITING
- THINGS MANAGERS DO THAT MAKE YOU SHAKE YOUR HEAD
- CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORTING

BY BILLY MOREHEAD AND BILL MILLER

SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS, CNMI CHAPTER

When: Tuesday, September 16, 2014
Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Registration begins at 7:30am
Location: Hyatt Regency Saipan
Seminar Fee: $125 Per Person, Buffet lunch is included
Registration Deadline: Monday, September 15, 2014

To register or for more information, please contact Glenda P. Cabrera via email at glendacabrera@deloitte.com or Cassandra S. Palacios at capalacios@deloitte.com or via phone at 670-322-7337

CNMI veteran journalists recognized for pioneering work

» DelRosario: I encourage the young generation to look into journalism

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council presented CNMI veteran journalists John S. DelRosario Jr. and his late brother, Frank S. Rosario, with plaques of recognition Thursday last week at the Memorial Kiosku in Chalan Kanoa, in recognition of their pioneering effort as among the first homegrown journalists in the CNMI.

Writing for over 40 years now, John S. DelRosario Jr. said his impetus as a journalist was to ensure an "informed citizenry" through "conscious fairness" against a fabricated "culture of submission."

He said the Kiosku, where the presentation was made, was apt and fitting, as it was where it all started, where the foundation of the local government was created.

"This is where it all started, when the first mayoral election was made, this is where it happened in the early '60s, when the Chamorros and Carolinians were fighting due to racism," said DelRosario, who is also a columnist for *Saipan Tribune*.

DelRosario noted that he and his brother decided to break away from what he described as a "fabricated culture" back then, of not talking about anyone or anything and keeping opinions to themselves.

"My mother was pissed at us for voicing our opinions [but] that is not culture. Our ancestors were afraid to talk from fear of being killed by the Spanish, so this 'fabricated culture' was actually forced upon us," he said.

DelRosario

Rosario

By following the path of journalism, DelRosario said this enabled him and his brother to tell the story of the CNMI from the inside out.

"You have to speak your mind, I have always been bold. I am not going to please anybody, I will say my piece and if you disagree, say so. Not that I want to criticize but I want to know where they are coming from and the basis of their disagreement."

DelRosario encourages the younger generation to pursue journalism or writing and express their views and hopefully turn into a columnist that voices out what is important.

John and Frank attended the U.S Department of Defense School of Journalism from 1974 to 1976 in Indianapolis.

At the height of Frank's career as a journalist, he covered major events for *Pacific Daily News* on the Micronesian Constitutional Convention, Political Status Commission negotiations, Marianas Political Status Commission negotiations, the 1984 eruption of Mt. Pagan, and also served as the press secretary for former governors Pete P. Tenorio and Lorenzo I. Guerrero.

John's career as a journalist covered the progress and controversy during the Trust Territory period and the life, progress, and evolution of the CNMI from the Naval Administration, the Trust Territory government changing into a constitutional government in political union with the U.S in the mid-'70s. He is also a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands and a former publisher for *Saipan Tribune*.

"People need to be more open and say their piece. Because it is through this discussion we all can learn and set what is right. I myself cannot carry this on my shoulders all alone. When I am gone, I hope someone will be there to pick up the pieces as a regular columnist," DelRosario said.

Soroptimist donates supplies to women's shelter

The Soroptimist International Northern Mariana Islands donated bundles of school supplies and Payless Shoe Source gift certificates to the children of the women's shelter on Aug. 28, 2014, with Sr. Stella Mangona and Lauri Ogumoro of Guma Esperansa receiving the donations.

Soroptimist club's mission is to empower women and children through education and helping the women in the local shelter is one of the club's main projects. The school supplies were the first of other donations the club will be giving this year.

"It's a strong memory from my childhood, that first day of school. And my first days were always with a pair of new shoes and new school supplies. It's hard to think that some children do not enjoy that basic happiness," one Soroptomist member said.

According to the club, some donations came from many women on the island who support the club. One non-member donated four brand new backpacks, each filled with supplies. Other donations included rulers, notebooks, pens, binders, scissors, backpacks, pencils, hand sanitizers, pencil cases, and other school items.

According to Soroptimist president Jill Arenovski, they have other projects for the shelter.

"While the club is small and the budget is still tight, each project is aimed to provide maximum impact and to let those at the shelter know that there are people on island who care about them," Arenovski said.

One Soroptimist member, Sarah Fryling, donated cake pops for several birthdays at the shelter.

Next month, the club is scheduled to award their "Live Your Dream" award of $1,000 to one inspirational woman who is pursuing her college education. The award is the signature project of Soroptimist Clubs worldwide.

For more information on Soroptimist Int. of Northern Mariana Islands club, email sinorthermarianaislands@soroptimist.net or visit their Facebook page at SI-Northern Mariana Islands. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

GREG MORETTI
MINA accepts Tan Holding's donation for Title Sponsorship of the upcoming Green Gala

Tan Holdings donates $3,000 to MINA

A long-time supporter of the organization, Tan Holdings, recently demonstrated its continued commitment to Mariana Islands Nature Alliance by donating $3,000 in in-kind contributions. The Title Sponsorship is for MINA's annual fundraising event, the Green Gala, which will be held on Friday, Sept. 19, 2014.

"Tan Holdings has always been one of MINA's biggest supporters and we greatly appreciate their valuable contribution," said Frankie Eliptico, chairperson of MINA's board of directors. "This donation goes a long way in helping us to continue our work to help sustain our island's natural resources."

In addition to lively entertainment, dinner and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature brief highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promises a memorable evening.

Last year's Green Gala was sold out, so organizers are encouraging those who plan to attend to buy their tickets early. Tickets for the Green Gala event can be purchased at the MINA Office in Gualo Rai or from any of the volunteer board members. ***(MINA)***

Seatbelt, child seat checkpoints set

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting occupant protection/child restraint checkpoints on the following dates and times:

SEPT. 15, 2014:

- 7:30am to 8:45am: Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Chalan Kiya adjacent to CUC Waterloo
- 10am to 11:15am: Beach Road, Garapan, across from Bank Pacific
- 1pm to 2:15pm: Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, adjacent to St. Michael's Office

SEPT. 17, 2014

- 4pm to 5:15pm: Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent to Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence
- 6:30pm to 7:45pm: Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico, across from Twin's Supermarket
- 8:30pm to 9:45pm: Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dan Dan, west of Java Joe's

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PTSA meeting at Oleai Elementary today

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School students that we will be having our first PTSA meeting for school year 2014-2015 today, Sept. 9, 2014, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. We encourage our parents and guardians to attend this important meeting. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting on Sept. 23

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Navy training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Sept. 12 from 6am to 11:59pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and date indicated. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Sept. 25

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Sept. 25, starting at 5:30pm at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 10th wedding anniversary to my loving husband, Niko Tomokane! May our good Lord continue to bless our lives together. I love you, for better or for worse 'til death do us part. Love, Mommy Ella and children.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 27th birthday to Jordan Wabol! God bless you, bro, with many more birthdays to come! Enjoy your day! Greetings come from your Dandan families.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to my honey-love, Betry Mike Jr. May God bless you on your special day, hon. Enjoy your day! We love you always! Greetings come from your missus and the Fantastic 5.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MINA promises an elegant, entertaining Green Gala

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Mother Nature is set to have another ball when the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance hosts its signature fundraising event, the Green Gala, next Friday, Sept. 19, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Although there is no specific theme, the night is designed to be one that is elegant, according to MINA board chair Frankie Eliptico.

"We designed it to be highly enjoyable while promoting awareness of conservation and environmental stewardship," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We want to keep with the spirit of the first Green Gala where we minimized speeches so guests can mingle with other guests and have fun. And dancing, there'll be lots of dancing!"

Eliptico promised that this year's Gala will definitely be better because of the continued improvements to the plans he and the MINA team have put together.

"We have a great team in place and we are excited."

In addition to entertainment, dinner, and a variety of beverages, the night of elegance will feature highlights from the non-profit origination's projects, a silent auction, and other activities.

MINA will also be handing out the Green Awards, which recognizes individuals and businesses who are leading the way to become better environmental stewards in the community.

"In addition to our guests having a great time, we want to elevate awareness and understanding of everyone's responsibility to preserve and protect our precious natural resources," Eliptico said.

The annual fundraiser aims to raise critical funds that will help continue MINA's efforts to preserve and protect the CNMI's fragile environment and biodiversity.

Eliptico noted that the organization is supported by project grants and from contributions from local businesses and community members as well.

"The Green Gala will be our largest fundraising event of the year, and it aims to raise funds to enable MINA to sustain its important work," he added.

The organization has already successfully implemented many projects, including the Obyan Rehabilitation Project, the Teacher Environmental Camp, the Marine Debris Prevention project, Tasi Watch Project, and the Adopt-A-Bin Project, which has placed recycle bins at all the major beaches on the island.

Some 120 tickets have already been sold and the group is expecting to sell about 100 more this week. Tickets to the Sept. 19 event cost $50 each.

The event's Emerald Sponsors are United Airlines and Joeten. Tan Holdings, Power 99, Duty Free Shoppers are the Title Sponsors. Major Sponsors are The Shack, Pacific Islands Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Chong's Corp., Bridge Capital, Pacific Trading, KKMP, Mariana Resort and Spa, and IT&E

Last year's Green Gala raised more than $40,000 in cash and in-kind contributions.

Tickets for the event can be bought online through at www.minapacific.org or by visiting the MINA office in Gualo Rai. For inquiries call 233-7333.

American Memorial Park welcomes new rangers

American Memorial Park welcomes two new rangers to the Interpretation Division of its National Park Service site. Interpretive Rangers Vanessa Latham and Kyle Podziewski, who began duty here the last week of August, both bring Marine Corps service backgrounds to American Memorial Park. We are proud of this added dimension to our program.

Latham comes to us from Valley Forge National Historic Site in Pennsylvania where she served three seasons in the Interpretation division. Among other duties there, she specialized in 18th century Revolutionary War-era black powder weaponry. Latham's contributions to American Memorial Park will include her determination to develop media sites such as Facebook and Twitter to enhance social media outreach. Please drop by the visitor center at American Memorial Park and introduce yourself to Latham. (Phone: 670-234-7207 Ext. 2020 or email Vanessa_Latham@NPS.GOV)

Podziewski joins us from Saipan where he has been living for the past three years with his family. Podziewski has a rich background in education, proven both on the island and in Japan during his 15-year residency there. His commitment to education and his proficiency in Japanese will be great assets to American Memorial Park. Please drop by at the Visitor Center to meet Podziewski or to greet him for the first time as a National Park Service ranger (234-7207 Ext. 2020 or email: pending)

Rangers Latham and Podziewski will be joining Ranger RosReeAnn Leon Guerrero, a long-time and dedicated employee at American Memorial Park, and Ranger John Furey, whose knowledge and understanding of the Marianas has been greatly valued and appreciated during his current 60-day appointment, as well as in previous appointments at the site.

Also, now serving at American Memorial Park is Interpretive Lead Ranger John Kepford, who came to Saipan on Aug. 1 from Manzanar National Historic Site, a World War II Japanese Internment Camp unit of the National Park Service. He has also served at Olympic National Park, Denali National Park and Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

All members of the Interpretation Division are deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve with the dedicated staff of American Memorial Park's Maintenance, Law Enforcement, Cultural and Natural Resources, and Administrative Divisions. We would also like to thank the local island communities and CNMI governmental organizations without whose support fulfilling our National Park Service mission would be impossible. ***(NPS)***

SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY WORKSHOP

Learn how to use social media to boost your business

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, from 9am to 12pm at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315. The three-hour workshop will focus on social media and its role in finding new customers, updating existing customers regarding promotions and events, and enhancing the effectiveness of your business. Get up-to-date on all the trending topics on social media and the benefits of using this tool to improve business from local experts.

Social media is changing business—from selling to connecting with your audience, from large campaigns to small acts, from controlling the message to transparency, and from hard-to-reach to available everywhere. More businesses than ever are devoting an increasing amount of resources into social media marketing. How do you determine whether those efforts are successful? Our guest speakers will not only tackle the ins and outs of networking using social media as a tool, but will also provide you with key information to help achieve your goals.

Registration for the workshop is now being accepted at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office at the Marianas Business Plaza Suite 315, third floor. Call 234-7150 or e-mail coordinator@saipanchamber.com to reserve your attendance. Registration fee for Chamber members is $15; $25 for non-Chamber members. Seating is limited to the first 25 confirmed attendees. ***(SCC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW14-IFB-006

PRECINCT V VARIOUS ROADS PROJECT, SAIPAN, CNMI

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Precinct V Various Roads Project, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after August 26, 2014 at Departmnet of Public works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($250.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Deaprtment of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capital Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on September 12, 2014, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on September 18, 2014 to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.
The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-14-IFB-005". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time September 29, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time September 29, 2014, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 29, 2014 and must be received no later than October 8, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, October 9, 2014. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on September 29, 2014.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Two Hundred Ten (210) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of Five Hundred Dollars (US$500.00) for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Division of Youth Services under the auspices of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be conducting a public hearing on the Community Services Block Grant and the Social Services Block Grant state plans on the following dates/time:

ISLAND	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Saipan	September 15, 2014	5:00pm – 6:30pm	Kobler Youth Center
Rota	September 17, 2014	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Rota Round House
Tinian	September 24, 2014	5:00pm – 6:30pm	Tinian Youth Center

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The Community Services Block Grant aims to support activities designed to assist low-income families and individuals to remove obstacles that block self-sufficiency; secure and retain meaningful employment; attain adequate education; obtain adequate housing; improve referral process for emergency assistance; achieve greater participation in community activities; and support youth development programs. An electronic copy of the CSBG state plan may be viewed at the link below.

http://gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/131112-CSBG-STATE-PLAN-2015.pdf
http://www.dys.gov.mp/ or http://www.dcca.gov.mp/

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)

The basic programs that would be implemented under the Social Services Block Grant Consolidation for the CNMI are based on achieving the following goals: Self-Support; Self-Sufficiency; Protective Services; Preventing or Reducing Inappropriate Institutional Care; and Securing Other forms of Care. An electronic copy of the SSBG state plan may be viewed at the link below.

http://gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/131029-FINAL-DRAFT-SSBG-STATE-PLAN-2015.pdf
http://www.dys.gov.mp/ or http://www.dcca.gov.mp/

Copies for the above state plans may also be picked up at the DYS Office of the Community Service Program, House #1324, in Capitol Hill (located right across the U.S. Passport Office). For more information, or to submit written comments, you may contact 664/2550/2551/2591/2592 or e-mail Mrs. Rita Castro, DYS Grant Writer at sorrapi3@gmail.com or Ms. Vivian Sablan, DYS Administrator at vtsablan@gmail.com.

Guam gets $111M in federal tax 'cover-over' payments

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina has approved a total of $111 million in Section 30 federal income tax transfer payments to Guam, including a $71-million advance payment for estimated fiscal year 2015 taxes, a $10-million adjustment for actual taxes collected in fiscal year 2013, and an adjustment payment of $30 million for taxes collected in Guam in previous years.

By law, federal income taxes derived from active members of the Armed Forces and pensions paid to retired civilian and military employees of the United States who reside in Guam are annually "covered-over" to the Guam Treasury to support the operations, activities, and programs of the local government.

"Honoring the government of Guam's request to make these payments in a timely fashion represents the federal government's responsibility and our commitment to the people of Guam," said Kia'aina. "We are pleased to support Gov. Eddie Calvo and the Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation in this process."

The government of Guam's Department of Revenue and Taxation has been working with the federal government to negotiate and finalize the amount of the adjusted payment owed to Guam for actual federal income taxes collected from Guam for previous years, which exceeded the estimated advance. The Office of Insular Affairs received the final documents necessary to authorize the payments this month, and will process the payments without delay.

Under U.S. law (48 USC 1421H), Section 30 advance payments are to be processed to Guam every September. OIA makes payment adjustments based on actual certifications received from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Internal Revenue Service for previous years. ***(OIA)***

$165M payment to US Virgin Islands for excise taxes

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina has approved payment of $165 million to the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands for estimated fiscal year 2015 rum excise taxes.

This advance payment is for excise taxes estimated to be collected in or derived from the USVI and collected by the federal government under the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48 USC 1541) during the next fiscal year. Under current law, any excise tax collected on USVI-manufactured rum imported into the United States is transferred to or "covered-over" to the USVI. The USVI government submits its advance estimate of the rum excise tax to the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs on an annual basis so that payment can be made in September of each fiscal year.

"Taking the steps necessary to provide these funds to the local government in a timely manner represents the federal government's commitment to the people of the U. S. Virgin Islands," said Kia'aina. "We are pleased to support Gov. John P. DeJongh and the USVI Office of Management and Budget in this revenue generating process."

The Office of Insular Affairs accepted the governor's estimate of the 2015 collections amount of $166.95 million, which was based upon a per proof gallon rate of $10.50. The USVI owed an adjustment payment of $1.7 million from a previous advance payment that was deducted from the total 2015 estimate.

The Office of Insular Affairs received the funds and final documents necessary to authorize the payment this month, and plans to process the payment without delay. Transfer of these federal taxes to the USVI provides a stable revenue stream that helps to support local government programs, projects, and activities. ***(OIA)***

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter is proud to recognize Bridge Capital LLC as a major donor for this year's Club 200 fundraising efforts. Bridge Capital has generously donated $5,000 to help the local Red Cross fulfill its mission of helping those in need here in the Commonwealth.

"We are grateful for the ongoing support from our friends at Bridge Capital" said Red Cross NMI Chapter board chair Tayna Belyeu-Camacho. "Bridge Capital has a long history of supporting our community and we are humbled by their desire to help the Red Cross." ***(ARC)***

Bridge Capital bats for Club 200 with $5K

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, American Red Cross NMI Chapter chair; Jody Jordahl, Bridge Capital chief operating officer; John Hirsh, Red Cross executive director; Paul Camacho, Emergency Services director; and Polly Omechelang, long time Red Cross volunteer.

Caragay graduates from basic training

Caragay

On Aug. 29, 2014, Pacific Islander Katrina Caragay graduated from the intensive 8.5-week Basic Training Program at the Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio Texas.

Caragay was able to study law and the U.S. Constitution, military protocol and procedures, firearms and self-defense, physical fitness, and hours and hours of marching and learning to move like a unit. There were over 500 cadets in her group, and she made good friends with airmen from Pohnpei, Pennsylvania and Oregon.

Her next stop is Fort Sam Houston where she will study nursing for four months. In the future, Caragay wants to be a flight nurse.

Of her experience, Caragay said: "In the beginning, it was all yelling and doing drills, but after two weeks, we understood that the drill instructors were turning us into professional airmen and making us ready to do our jobs." ***(PR)***

Mariana Resort donates to complete chapel project

DAISUKE SATO

Kan Pacific president Yoshihiro Kitami, third from left, hands over a check to William Lieto of Sta. Remedios, accompanied by a few representatives from KL Carr Enterprise, Sta. Remedios Church Group, and Mariana Resort & Spa. Inset shows the newly completed chapel at the heart of the Tanapag Cemetery.

Kan Pacific, which does business as Mariana Resort and Spa, recently donated $4,000 to the Sta. Remedios Church Group, also known as "Friends of Talabwoog," to help complete a long awaited chapel project located at the heart of the Tanapag Cemetery.

According to Gloria Cavanagh, general manager of Mariana Resort & Spa, "Tanapag Cemetery is a community cemetery without an established administration, therefore it is really important to be able to help projects like this and give back to the community." ***(Hanaivy Babauta)***

Bomb technicians work to rid Saipan of WWII ordnance

Senior Chief (EWS) Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Brain Fitzgerald, attached to EOD Detachment Marianas in Guam, right, briefs EOD technicians from Saipan, the U.S. Navy and Air Force.
U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON

Unexploded ordnance technicians from Saipan's Department of Public Safety and Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians from the U.S. Navy and Air Force place 1.25-lb blocks of C-4 explosive atop approximately 600 lbs of unexploded ordnance from World War II. This multiagency operation disposed of UXO from the in order to safeguard the lives of local residents.
U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON

By TIMOTHY WILSON
Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class (EXW)
JOINT REGION PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MARPI, Saipan—Unexploded ordnance technicians from Saipan and Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians from the U.S. Navy and Air Force collaborated to dispose of approximately 600 lbs of UXOs from World War II from Aug. 28 to Aug. 30.

For more than 10 years, Saipan's Department of Public Safety, including its Tactical Response Enforcement Team and Explosive Response Team, have worked alongside service members from EOD Mobile Unit 5 Detachment Marianas, stationed in Guam. EOD personnel from the Air Force 36th EOD Detachment, attached to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, participated in the training and contributed to the UXO disposal.

"We have a great special relationship with the Navy," said Police Officer 2 Jason Tarkong, a 22-year veteran attached to the Department of Public Safety's Enforcement Action Section on Saipan. "Collectively, we are disposing of this ordnance and there is a lot still on the island."

EOD Mobile Unit 5 Detachment Marianas' primary mission is to locate, identify, and render safe or dispose of land or water-based ordnance within the Joint Region Marianas area of operations. Any ordnance found constitutes an emergency operation because life and critical infrastructure are at risk.

"Safety, safety, safety—those are the key words here since it is not only for the public but also for the officers involved," said Tarkong. "Ordnance could leak and hurt you or me, but there are a lot of construction and kids playing in the woods here. Without these operations, the next thing you know they could handle something and get hurt."

In total, three emergency operations have been performed this year, disposing of approximately 2,400 lbs of UXOs.

EOD Technician 1st Class Andrew Burn, attached to EOD Detachment Marianas said that learning and working with professionals from other services and countries offers a unique opportunity.

"UXOs are a problem for many reasons," he said. "Islands such as Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota have a lot of children on island that may not get the education and training to understand why they should not be handling a lot of these items."

Airman 1st Class Nicolas Bustos, attached to the Air Force 36th EOD Detachment, said the inter-agency collaboration has been beneficial, not only in understanding each other's operating procedures but also building camaraderie and friendships.

"This is my first time doing a joint operation with the Navy EOD technicians so we can get to know how we both operate so future operations are not a novel experience," he said. "Working [on] Saipan allows the same experience with our partners so we can all work together effectively."

Tarkong and Burn stressed the need for continuing these missions to dispose of UXO remnants but also to continue educating the local population. When ordnance is found, it must be considered unstable and only handled by trained professionals.

"The experience is truly great in that we all learn about safety and keeping the community safe as well as the people that handle the explosives," Tarkong said. "These missions have enhanced our skills, not only as police officers, but also as SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactical Officers). Helping people recognize the types of ordnance threats out there is key."

He said the resources of Saipan may be limited in terms of manpower, but with the help of the U.S. military, these types of operations will continue to be successful for years to come.

"I enjoy working with the U.S. Navy and Air Force," Tarkong said. "It is an honor and a great opportunity to learn and make deep meaningful relationships."

U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON
Police Officer 2 Jason Tarkong attached to the Department of Public Safety's Enforcement Action Section on Saipan hands U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 1st Class (EWS/PJ) Rashid Graham an unexploded ordnance from World War II.

U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON
Unexploded ordnance technicians from Saipan's Department of Public Safety and Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians from the U.S. Navy and Air Force form a human chain to move UXO from a bunker to a detonation site.

U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON
Senior Chief (EWS) Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Brian Fitzgerald, attached to EOD Mobile Unit 5 Detachment Marianas in Guam, examines Japanese and American World War II artillery shells before transporting them for demolition.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Air passengers, airlines need to clean up their act

In just over a week, three U.S. flights have made unscheduled landings due to passenger conflicts, all of them involving reclining seatbacks, and objections on the part of the already cramped reclinees behind them.

These are people who knew, or should have known, the conditions they were accepting when they bought tickets and boarded the planes, and they should have known better than to let themselves get so exasperated with each other.

That said, the American airline industry is doing precious little to prevent such incidents; indeed, it seems to be doing everything its bean-counters can think of to make them inevitable. For all except the few who can afford the gold-plated price of first class, commercial air travel in the United States has become a miserable, stressful and claustrophobic experience.

Cramming (and that is not a figurative term in this context) a few more passengers into a cabin to get a few hundred more bucks into the airlines' coffers clearly trumps even minimal consideration of passenger comfort; and customers are coming up against the limits of their patience with a level of abuse for which they are paying hefty sums of their hard-earned money.

According to Associated Press air industry reporter Scott Mayerowitz, United and Southwest took away an inch of space from each row in some of their jets to squeeze in six more seats; JetBlue did the same … to make room in the first-class cabin for lie-flat beds. On some of its Boeing jets, American is adding 10 more seats.

It's not just passengers who are concerned; so are airline service people, for obvious reasons.

"Seats are getting closer together," Association of Flight Attendants President Sara Nelson told the AP. "We have to de-escalate conflict all the time … We haven't hit the end of it. The conditions continue to march in a direction that will lead to more and more conflict."

Air travel is already a stressful experience for reasons that aren't the airlines' fault. In a post 9/11 world, flight security means long, slow lines and sometimes intrusive screening; travelers have to add hours to a travel day to account for the delays. But most of the money-driven stress of flying is eminently avoidable and, frankly, inexcusable.

Southerners who are old enough might remember the old Southern Airways TV ad that satirized Haves/Have-Nots air travel by depicting the "other" cabin as a kind of airborne ghetto, with chickens pecking at the floor and peasants huddled over a bucket of gruel.

That is, we think it was satire.

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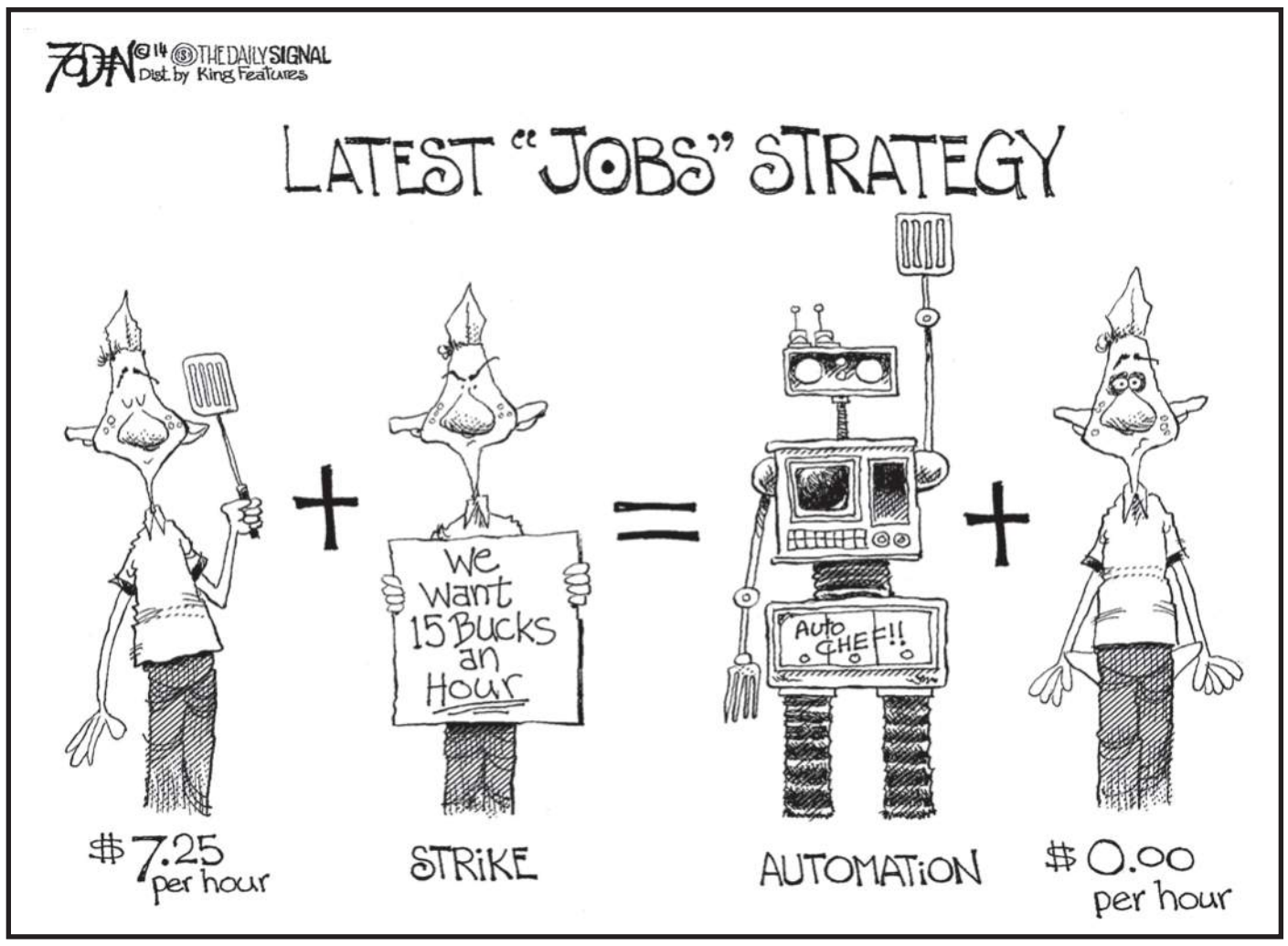


Struggle against totalitarianism continues

By ROBERT P. GEORGE
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Robert P. George is the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University. Readers may send him email at rgeorge@princeton.edu. He wrote this for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

As we mark the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, alarming gains by the terrorist group known as the Islamic State, along with continued threats from al-Qaida and others, make it clear that the danger of terrorist mass murder is by no means a thing of the past.

While these groups and their leaders seek to recover a mythical golden age from a distant past, they also are propelled by an inescapably modern—and terrifying—idea. Surfacing in the last century, decades before 9/11, that idea has come to be known as totalitarianism. If we are to defeat the violent Islamist radicals who are today threatening the world, we must shine the brightest of spotlights on this malignant idea at the heart of their ideology. And we must counter it, not just with the force of arms, but with a compelling defense of the anti-totalitarian idea of morally ordered freedom.

What defines totalitarianism is a list of shocking and unprecedented demands:

■ Give fanatical leaders and movements absolute and permanent authority.

■ Make these leaders and their followers into virtual gods, charged to take control of history and transform humanity itself.

■ Release them from accountability to any law and institution, belief and custom, moral norm and precept.

■ Grant them complete control of every facet of human existence, from outward conduct to the innermost workings of conscience and belief.

The rise of this extremist ideology to prominence coincided with a deep crisis of faith that engulfed Europe after the carnage of World War I nearly a century ago. In response to this crisis, totalitarianism—initially in communist and fascist forms—rose to fill the void. Its vision amounted to the state's replacing God as central to all things, while anointing certain people and their movements as humanity's new leaders, deserving the ultimate powers once reserved for the deity.

For the better part of a century, totalitarianism has donned its share of masks and hijacked key vehicles in its efforts to subjugate the world.

In the 1930s and 1940s, it threatened humanity through Nazism and other forms of fascism that exploited the concept of race and the ideology of nationalism as vehicles for its unlimited aims. After World War II, with Nazism defeated, totalitarianism posed its greatest threat in the form of communism, which hijacked the concepts of class and class consciousness and the strivings for social justice for the same purpose.

By the close of the 20th century, these movements had committed every crime under the sun, triggering the deaths of nearly 150 million human beings. They also waged unceasing war on the rights and duties of conscience, leaving behind a grim legacy in which more than 75 percent of the world's people live under regimes that seriously violate freedom of conscience and religion or stand by and let mobs or extremists persecute religious and other minorities with impunity.

The same totalitarian impulse that drove Nazism and communism has hijacked religion as its latest vehicle, creating radical Islamism.

From the Islamic State to Iran's mullahs, and from al-Qaida to the Taliban, these new totalitarians pose similar threats to freedom, dignity, and peace. Displaying characteristic contempt for the rule of law and the crucial distinction between combatants and noncombatants in the conduct of war, they have deliberately targeted civilians and resorted to mass murder, precisely as the Nazis and Communists did.

From Afghanistan, they launched the 9/11 attacks and seek to regain power and destroy every human right, from religious freedom to the rights of women. In Iran, they run the government and regularly execute religious dissenters while supporting terrorist groups around the world. In Iraq, they indiscriminately slaughter men, women, and children and threaten the lives and liberties of religious minorities and most of the Muslim majority. In Pakistan, they have assassinated leaders and target both Muslims and religious minorities who dare to dissent from their beliefs.

Many observers presume that these movements and their leaders simply represent Islam taken to an extreme. Some even maintain that it is "the true Islam." They are mistaken.

While the history of nearly every religion includes periods of despotism and bloodshed, no religion, including Islam, ever stood in principle, as the Nazis and Communists did, for what amounts to nihilism. No great world religion ever granted any human being, group, or government the perpetual right in principle to flout any rule, break any law or taboo, or commit any atrocity with impunity.

In other words, the struggle we face today does not pit one religion against others, nor is it a battle of religion against humanity; rather, it is a struggle pitting lawlessness and tyranny against freedom and dignity. The irony is that this time it is being trotted out in religion's name.

In this struggle, Muslims have a duty to their faith and to humanity to stand resolutely against Islam's hijacking by people driven by the same diabolical impulse that unleashed the likes of Hitler, Stalin, and Pol Pot on the world. They must rip away its religious mask and

See STRUGGLE on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Party affiliation, from one generation to the next

By MICHAEL SMERCONISH
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Michael Smerconish writes for The Philadelphia Inquirer, and is host of "Smerconish" on CNN. Readers may contact him at www.smerconish.com

Our eldest son begins college next week. Before packing his bags, he first signed two legal documents, each signifying a right of passage: the Selective Service registration status form and Pennsylvania voter registration application. The latter was the subject of more conversation than the former. That's a reflection of politics and current events being staples at our dinner table since he was born. Which is not to say that either his mother or I sought to influence his decision. For my part, I told him the same thing I said to his older sister when she registered: "I'd rather you cancel me out than not vote."

Still, my interest in his affiliation was more than casual. Party affiliation and voting are very personal to me. I earn a living by commenting on our political process in print, on radio, and on television, and while my opinions might sometimes be wrong, they are all heartfelt.

I'm particularly proud of never having missed an election in 34 years of voting eligibility. For the first 30 years of my voting life, I'd been a registered Republican and played an active role in GOP campaigns on a local, state, and national level. While a Republican, I was an elected alternate delegate to a national convention while still in college, ran unsuccessfully for the state legislature while in law school, and was appointed (at age 29) to a subcabinet level position in the administration of George H.W. Bush.

But in 2010, I wanted out of the GOP. As I wrote at the time, I'm not sure if I left the Republican Party or the party left me. All I knew was that I no longer felt comfortable.

"I view the national GOP as a party of exclusion and litmus tests, dominated on social issues by the religious right, with zero discernible outreach by the national party to anyone who doesn't fit neatly with its parameters … which is not to say I feel comfortable in the Democratic Party, either," I wrote then.

So, when renewing my driver's license, I was asked by a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation representative if I desired to change my registration. I said yes, and checked the box for "No affiliation," which in Pennsylvania is the equivalent of Independent.

My son knows all of this background. But I wasn't sure what he would do with his own application. I stood silently watching him fill in his personal data, waiting to see how he would answer question No. 9: "In which party to you wish to register?"

The form afforded him four options: Democratic, Republican, Other (Please specify), or No Affiliation. With the stroke of a pen, Michael Smerconish Jr. joined the GOP. He signed his name, and then gave me his rationale.

"I want to vote as often as possible," he said, explaining why he wanted to register with a particular party instead of following my lead. I had to admit that I'm sympathetic, having felt shut out of Pennsylvania's closed primary process in the last four years. My onetime optimism that Pennsylvania would open its primary process in the face of growth among Independents here and nationwide has dimmed. Which means that people like me will continue to show up to vote in November, having been precluded from influencing the nomination process the previous spring.

So I understood why he ruled out "No affiliation," but what explained his selection of the Republican Party instead of registering Democratic?

My son told me that he thought it most important that the country have good choices in general elections and that there were more in the current crop of GOP leaders with whom he'd be uncomfortable in command. I pointed out that he was basing that observation on the previous presidential cycle when a Democratic incumbent didn't have to endure intraparty debates. If there had been, would he have the same concern about that party?

"There are more Republicans among the contenders that I'd rather not have in the White House, so I want to vote in their primaries," he said, while making clear that if it appears the Democratic Party might nominate someone he believes unacceptable, he'll make a change. For him, it's about exercising his influence in a way that limits outliers.

He registered to vote on a day when we went fly-fishing with his grandfather. That morning, when I'd pulled over to buy flies from a local vendor, my son pointed out a sign the merchant had erected: "God Save America, Before It's Too Late!"

At the end of the day, we stopped for gas. Revisiting our conversation about his registration, I told him I hoped I hadn't poisoned his decision-making process. There was a pickup truck adjacent to where we were filling up, with two bumper stickers. One read "It's One Nation Under God, Get It?" The other said, "Obama Must Go."

"No, Dad, you didn't influence my decision," said my son, "they did."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Contradictions and conflicts

In the human resources management business, a politician who has no clue on how and why a business enterprise stays its going concern is a nightmare to professionals and practitioners in this line of work. Mr. Gregorio C. Sablan appearing at a meeting before the CNMI Chapter of SHRM a few days ago is a classical aura of contradiction of conflicting objectives between elitist in government and business owners. The irony is even more comical and pronounced when professionals of the human resource society at this meeting giving overt applause to Mr. Sablan's position on minimum wage issues in the CNMI.

The business of any professional and committed human resource employee is to secure unconditional, uncompromising, and exclusive loyalty to the owners of the businesses that employ them. Second, all human resource management and doings are strategized and formed for the purpose of minimizing or cutting costs for the company, thus ensuring a reasonable profit to the owners. When these two factors are put together as basic principles for human resources management professionals and practitioners in the CNMI, the value of Mr. Gregorio Sablan's grandstanding on minimum wage issues runs against the grain of what these professionals represent in that their only interest is for the sole benefit of the business owners. I am sure you may agree that the business owners that employ these HR professionals who were at that SHRM meeting are worried when their trusted employees are compromising the future potential and lifespan of their company. The biblical concept about obeying your master and the one who pays for your labor is a useful reference when one ascertains to which these HR professionals should harbor their commitment to.

Mr. Sablan was engaged in a meeting attended by individuals involved in human resource management and it appears that he took it for granted that since he was in a room full of HR professionals, the concept "human resource" served his purpose in covering the talking points for his speech. It seems that Mr. Sablan was talking more about the "labor force or workforce" of the CNMI region rather than the human resources value of the companies these professionals are involved with. This is an important distinction in my opinion because of the connotation of the speech in that he sounded more or less suggesting to count all employed and unemployed persons within the CNMI. Active human resources productive contributions to a company should signify only those actively employed and participating in an employment environment. Thus, HR professionals do not give much attention to unemployed persons who are not connected to the status of their operating activities.

In terms of the CW and long-term workers group, Mr. Sablan seems to be suggesting that these matters do not have a dark side for the indigenous people of these islands. This is unlikely, if Mr. Sablan does not begin to lighten up and start discussing what he thinks as the confrontational and conflicting sides of these matters. He is lying to the indigenous people of the NMI, and will remain so until we are able to fully comprehend that his position is not placing in despair or disparaging the indigenous people's situation on account of poor and lack of representation because he is not talking well about it. When is he going to open up and start telling the truth is the question. The only way that these matters can come to fruition is by way of knowing first what he has in mind and stands for.

Logically, even without debating, only by way of letting go of CW workers in the CNMI can one make work available for the unemployed indigenous person of the CNMI. The dark side of the policy that gives benefit to one is actually a negative benefit to the other in the same playing field. Why is Mr. Sablan not saying that pawning the employable workers status of the unemployed indigenous is what he is actually fortifying and hiding because the cause is good for his own benefit in Washington, D.C.? He needs to frequently and satisfactorily talk about this with the masses, and use sparingly the printed media to mold his less-than-forthright discourse on employment issues that requires the attention of the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands. Let's all know when you would hold your first town-hall meeting for this purpose. Otherwise, the dark side of your representation is real, and the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands would not cork what is untruth.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

STRUGGLE

From Page 10

reveal its idolatrous soul before the world.

But by the same token, those of us who are not Muslims also have responsibilities. We have a duty to engage the enemy in the most important but oft-neglected battle of all, the one for hearts and minds. We must reaffirm and promote freedom's creed—that people have inherent dignity, worth, and rights that no movement or government can ever take away.

In this newest front in the twilight struggle against totalitarianism, humanity itself hangs in the balance, as it did in the heyday of Nazism and communism. At stake is nothing less than the future of freedom and dignity.

For America, 9/11 was a call to engage in the fight. Let us keep answering the call, for our own sake and for that of posterity.

LITERARY NOOK

ten years ago today

09/07/2004 to 09/13/2004

By JOEY "PEPE BATON" CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

looking back towards ten years ago
news headlines continued to flow
lets take a rhyming four line peek
at what happened during that week

09/07/2004
in Beslan, Ossetia, (Russia) citizens mourn their dead
Chechen terrorists have committed suicide or fled
the world cries too for these innocent people
church bells toll from steeple to steeple

09/08/2004
over a thousand U.S. soldiers have now been killed in Iraq
more widows and families will mourn dressed in black
more soldiers dying from car bomb attacks every day
over seven thousand have been injured news sources say

09/09/2004
killer Hurricane Ivan hit the Caribbean islands today
deaths rising in Japan, Korea, China as storms make there way
NASA capsule "Genesis" collected particles from the sun
but crashed in the desert as it ended its six year run

09/10/2004
arguments over "genocide" in Western Sudan
the U.N. can't agree about the best helping plan
over 50,000 dead there in the past year
more than a million refugees leave Darfur in fear

09/11/2004
three years ago on 09/11 the world changed for you and me
in NYC, over the skies of Pennsylvania and in Washington, D.C.
terrorists took the lives of thousands of innocents
completely insane actions making absolutely no sense

09/12/2004
insurgent Iraqi's kill and kidnap many others
numbers rise daily of dead sisters and brothers
fighting rages from southern Basra north to Tall Afar
the weapon of the day is bombs inside a car

09/13/2004
Saudi Arabia chops off three heads for traffic in drugs
U.S. assault weapons ban expires so more guns for thugs
Hurricane Ivan south of Cuba continues its destruction
No. Korean mushroom cloud may be power plant construction

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

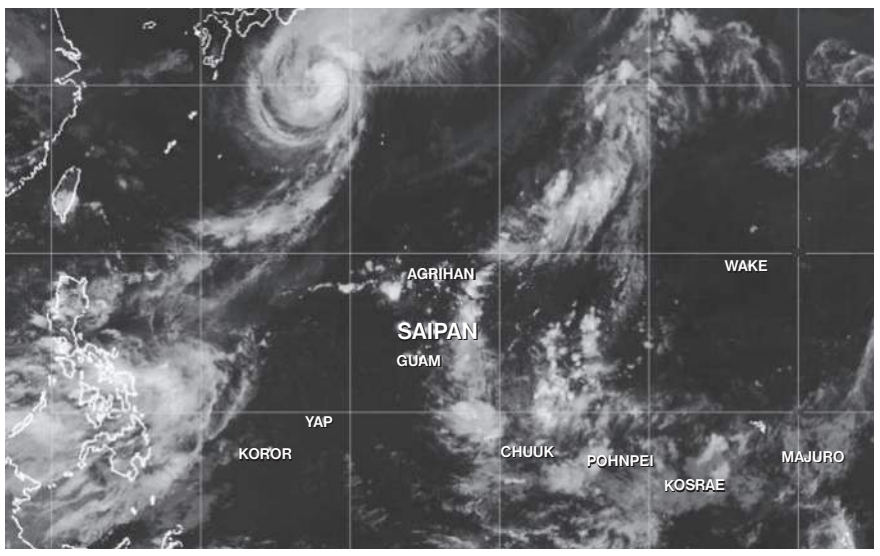
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲83	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
New York	Showers	▲76	▼65
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼65
Paris	Sunny	▲74	▼54
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼67
Rome	Sunny	▲85	▼66
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲80	▼55
Tokyo	Showers	▲81	▼67
Washington, DC	Showers	▲77	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough curves southwestward from 25N138E to 23N136E to beyond 130E at 21N. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are within 100 miles of the trough. Another surface trough northwest of Wake Island runs from 25N157E to 20N151E. Scattered showers are within 100 miles of the trough. A weak circulation northwest of Koror is centered near 11N130E with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of a line from 14N133E to 7N131E. Convergent surface winds east of the Mariana Islands are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 16N and 9N from 148E to 151E. A tropical disturbance is centered between Chuuk and Pohnpei at about 6N156E with a surface trough extending eastward across the northern Marshall Islands to end near 8N175E. Patchy areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are between 11N and 3N from 151E to 162E. Scattered showers in an area from Kosrae across the Marshall Islands are between 10N and 4N from 162E to 175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:06 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
9:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:27 PM	5:52 AM
Wednesday	7:17 PM	6:53 AM
Thursday	8:05 PM	7:53 AM
Friday	8:54 PM	8:52 AM
Saturday	9:43 PM	9:49 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

Congress coming back, must act to avoid shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lawmakers are streaming back to Capitol Hill after their summer vacation for an abbreviated September session in which feuding Democratic and Republican leaders promise action to prevent a government shutdown while holding votes aimed at defining the parties for the fall campaign.

Republicans control the House and want to pad their 17-vote majority, so they intend to follow this simple rule: first, do no harm.

Last fall, they sparked a partial government shutdown over the implementation of President Barack Obama's health law. Now, Republicans are pressing for drama-free passage of a temporary spending bill to prevent a shutdown at month's end and fund government agencies into mid-December.

AP

In this Sept. 9, 2013 file photo television news lights await the start of activity on Capitol Hill in Washington as both houses of Congress return to full legislative session.

The Senate is sure to go along if the measure is kept free of objectionable add-ons.

House Republicans also plan votes aimed at drawing attention to legislation they say would boost jobs and energy production.

"We're set up to paint a very stark contrast between ourselves and the Democrats who run Washington—if we take advantage of it by getting our work done and getting our message out," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, told colleagues in a conference call last week.

Boehner said that message—"our closing argument," he called it—would focus on ways to get people back to work and "restore opportunity" for Americans.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., seems most intent on getting endangered incumbents from Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana and North Carolina back campaigning as soon as possible.

He is planning to adjourn the Senate by Sept. 23 after dispensing with the spending measure and holding votes—destined to lose—on Democratic planks such as raising the minimum wage and block the flow of unlimited, unregulated campaign cash from the wealthy, including the billionaire Koch brothers.

There are few must-pass items that require cooperation between the feuding House and Senate.

Atop the list is the spending measure to keep agencies funded at current levels through mid-December. That would give House and Senate negotiators ample time to work out a trillion-dollar-plus bill during a lame-duck session after Election Day.

Boehner is looking to settle a split among Republicans over reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank, which provides credit guarantees that help foreign buyers purchase U.S. exports such as Boeing airplanes and heavy equipment built by Caterpillar.

Many conservative Republicans, including House Financial Services Committee Chairman Jeb Hensarling of Texas, oppose extending the bank. But Democrats and a host of business friendly Republicans may have the upper hand.

GOP aides said it's likely that an interim deal would extend the bank's authority until perhaps early next year.

Also in play is a freeze that prevents state and local governments from taxing access to the Internet.

Under current law, the freeze expires Nov. 1, exposing Internet users to the same kind of connection fees that often show up on telephone bills. Legislation to extend the tax moratorium is expected to be attached to the must-do spending bill, according to senior House GOP aide.

The aide spoke on condition of anonymity to candidly discuss internal party deliberations.

Republicans and Democrats are clamoring for legislation authorizing Obama to use military force against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria. But the abbreviated session and a lack of consensus raise doubts about whether any congressional action is possible.

Obama plans to meet with congressional leaders at the White House on Tuesday and give a speech Wednesday as he begins laying out a strategy for combating the Islamic State threat.

To assert authority, partner with boss

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics."

Q: I am having difficulty with a newly-formed team. As a project manager, I am currently responsible for overseeing two different groups. The experienced team is a pleasure to work with, but the new one has been extremely challenging.

"Team A" brings me questions, informs me about concerns, and provides regular status updates. "Team B", on the other hand, ignores me completely and takes all problems and questions directly to my boss. They seem to view him as the project leader.

I don't want to appear dictatorial or defensive, so I'm not sure how to handle this situation. Do you have any ideas?

A: Instead of confronting this rogue group singlehandedly, you need to partner with your manager. By responding to Team B's requests, he has implicitly given them permission to bypass you, so he must stop reinforcing this behavior. Fortunately, since he hasn't done this with other teams, the mistake is probably unintentional.

Describe the dilemma to your boss, then ask for help in resolving it. For example: "Team B seems to be confused about my leadership responsibilities. They've developed the habit of bringing issues directly to you and leaving me out of the loop. If you could attend our next project meeting, perhaps you can help me explain our roles."

Once the team understands expectations, consistent follow-up will be the key to success. Because people often cling to familiar behaviors, a few wayward members will undoubtedly continue to approach your boss. But if he firmly directs them back to you, this problem should soon disappear.

Q: My coworker's annoying habits drive me absolutely crazy. She is constantly snapping her fingers, tapping her feet, humming a tune, or popping her gum. When I tried to reciprocate by hitting my pen against a glass for several minutes, she didn't even notice. If this continues, I will eventually blow up and say something I regret. Any suggestions?

A: I regularly receive complaints about coworker noise, so you are certainly not alone. In these situations, people should understand that their colleagues are not being intentionally rude. Some folks simply possess an innate ability to screen out background noise, while others, like yourself, are acutely aware of every sound in the room.

When these two types work together, the "sound sensitives" are greatly disturbed by random noises, while the "sound screeners" don't understand what the problem is. This physiological difference explains not only your frustration, but also your colleague's indifference to the retaliatory glass-tapping.

If your snapping and popping coworker is a reasonable sort, perhaps she would be willing to help. In that case, you might try making a friendly request.

For example: "Mary, I have a favor to ask. Because I have extremely sensitive hearing, I am easily distracted by noises that don't bother other people. If sounds from your cubicle make it hard for me to concentrate, would it be OK if I ask you to tone them down?"

But if you fear the noisemaker will take offense, consider employing self-protective measures. Listen to soothing music with earbuds, use a white noise machine, or see if your boss might agree to move your desk.

Dubai lays out plans for Legoland, other parks

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A property development company controlled by Dubai's ruler outlined plans Sunday for the first phase of an entertainment and resort complex in the city that promises the Middle East's first Legoland theme park.

The project is part of a broader push by the Arab world's commercial hub to ramp up its hotel and tourism offerings as it prepares to host the World Expo in 2020.

Meraas Holding said initial work began in February on the $2.7 billion Dubai Parks and Resorts project, and that the first phase should be done by 2016. The company is backed by Dubai ruler Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

In addition to the Legoland park, that initial phase will include a Bollywood-themed park celebrating the Indian film industry and another known as Motiongate Dubai promising to bring Hollywood characters to life.

Plans also call for a central retail and dining plaza and family-friendly hotel at the complex, located in Dubai's Jebel Ali area, which is best known for hosting the region's largest seaport and the second of the emirate's palm-shaped islands. The Expo will be held nearby, alongside a new airport that officials envision will one day become the world's busiest.

Tourism plays a growing role in Dubai's trade and transportation-dependent economy. Dubai aims to host 20 million visitors annually by 2020, up from 10 million in 2012.

Dubai developers previously laid out plans for Legoland and Universal Studios parks as part of a broader complex known as Dubailand in a different part of the emirate. Those plans, along with scores of other projects, were shelved or scrapped altogether in the wake of the global financial crisis.

The financial downturn hit heavily indebted Dubai particularly hard, sending property prices tumbling and forcing the emirate to accept multibillion-dollar emergency aid packages from its oil-rich neighbor, Abu Dhabi.

The local economy has recovered considerably since the crisis came to a head in 2009, though the emirate and its state-linked companies still shoulder tens of billions of dollars in debt. The International Monetary Fund has warned that a sharp rebound in real estate prices could lead to another property bubble.

Officials in Dubai last year announced plans for a $1.6 billion island development that would include the world's biggest Ferris wheel and a $7.3 million park dedicated to the Quran, Islam's holy book.

US gas prices fall, extending summer decline

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—A national survey says the average price of a gallon of regular gasoline has dropped 2 cents over the last two weeks, to $3.46, bringing the decline to 25 cents over the last 11 weeks.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday that falling crude oil prices drove the declines, although the drop was more moderate than earlier this summer. If crude prices don't rise, Lundberg says prices at the pump may fall more as refiners shift to winter-grade gasoline, which costs less to produce.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, had the lowest price among cities surveyed in the Lower 48 states, with $3.11 a gallon. San Francisco had the highest at $3.88 a gallon.

The average price for a gallon of midgrade gasoline was $3.67 a gallon, and premium was $3.83.

Nation

Analysis: Politics trump promises on immigration

WASHINGTON (AP)—For years, President Barack Obama berated Republicans for putting their own political interests ahead of good policy on immigration. In two successive presidential campaigns, he held up Washington's failure to act on immigration as a prime example of the cynical decision-making he said must end in Washington.

Now that he is delaying his own immigration plan until after Election Day, Obama has opened himself to charges from Democrats and Republicans that he's just as guilty of playing politics.

The president's about-face, reversing a promise to take action near the end of summer, has left him with few allies going forward on an issue he had hoped would become a core component of his legacy. Immigration groups are decrying what they see as a cravenly political move that puts their best interests yet again on the back burner. Republicans are far from appeased; they're accusing Obama of ducking accountability because he still plans to act, just not until after voters go to the polls. Democrats, for the most part, are trying their hardest to stay out of it.

AP
This July 10, 2014 file photo shows President Barack Obama in a campaign style rally in Austin, Texas.

Obama's explanation for his decision to delay—that a summer surge in Central American children crossing into the U.S. illegally had poisoned the atmosphere for immediate action—did little to quell speculation that Obama had actually yielded to midterm politics. After all, nervous red-state Democrats had been complaining throughout the summer that voters would punish them if Obama took provocative, unilateral executive action now, such as deferring deportation for millions of immigrants.

"It's definitely politics," Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said Sunday. Added Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., a prominent immigration advocate: "Playing it safe might win an election ... but it almost never leads to fairness, to justice and to good public policy that you can be proud of."

For Obama, the decision to delay presidential action on immigration laid down a new marker in his evolution from the young presidential candidate who in 2008 vowed to put an end to a political system in Washington driven by self-interest. That aspirational message helped galvanize support from a younger and increasingly diverse electorate—including millions of Hispanics.

But as president, Obama has found that promise among the most difficult to deliver—on more than immigration.

Over time, he's eased his own prohibitions on raising money for super PACs and on lobbyists serving in government, in each instance confronting the reality that changing an entrenched system of government requires more than idealism and good will.

"There's an aspiration when you're running that you can really seize a bureaucracy by the scruff of the neck, but it's a lot harder to do than you think," said Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian at Rice University. "Once you get to the White House, you deal with the milieu the best you can."

Even as he ran for re-election in 2012, with Washington still firmly jammed by partisanship, Obama predicted his re-election would "break the fever" because Republicans would know he'd never be on the ballot again. He blasted the GOP for withdrawing support for legislation allowing people brought into the U.S. illegally as children to stay, telling Latino elected officials in Florida, "The need hadn't changed. The only thing that had changed was politics."

As signs emerged in recent weeks that Obama would likely delay his immigration plans, White House officials struggled to find a rationale that didn't come down to pure midterm calculations.

At first, Obama suggested he wanted to preserve any prospect for immigration legislation after the election, telling reporters that "hope springs eternal."

Monkey study: Ebola vaccine works, needs booster

]**WASHINGTON** (AP)—New monkey studies show that one shot of an experimental Ebola vaccine can trigger fast protection, but the effect waned unless the animals got a booster shot made a different way.

Some healthy people are rolling up their sleeves at the National Institutes of Health for the first human safety study of this vaccine in hopes it eventually might be used in the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

The NIH on Sunday published some of the key animal research behind those injections. One reason the vaccine was deemed promising was that a single dose protected all four vaccinated monkeys when they were exposed to high levels of Ebola virus just five weeks later, researchers reported in the journal Nature Medicine.

Is five weeks fast enough?

That's in line with other vaccines routinely used today, and fortunately it didn't take multiple doses to trigger that much protection, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, whose employees led the work.

The bigger challenge is that the protection wanes over time.

Researchers exposed monkeys to Ebola 10 months after vaccination, and this time only half were protected.

Partial protection is better than none, Fauci said. But the goal is long-lasting protection, so it was time to try booster shots. The vaccine is made with a chimpanzee cold virus, used as a delivery system for pieces of an Ebola gene. The researchers tried simply giving another dose as a booster two months later. That didn't work well enough.

So they tried a different approach called "prime-boost." The first dose, to prime the immune system, was that original chimp virus-based Ebola vaccine. But for the booster two months later, they made vaccine a different way. They encased the same Ebola gene pieces inside a poxvirus that's used to make a vaccine against smallpox. (Neither vaccine type can cause Ebola.)

This time, all four monkeys still were protected 10 months after the initial shot.

With the Ebola crisis rapidly worsening, the World Health Organization said Friday that it would try to speed the use of certain experimental products, including two vaccine candidates. The WHO said that in November, it expects early results from first-stage studies to see if the vaccine appears safe and triggers an immune reaction in people. That would help determine whether to test the shots' effectiveness in health care workers in West Africa.

US Senate candidates trade jabs in first debate

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (AP)—Health care and the partial government shutdown underscored the first debate Saturday between U.S. Democratic Sen. Mark Udall and Republican U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner, who are deadlocked in a pivotal Colorado contest that could determine control of the Senate.

Gardner repeatedly tied Udall to the policies of President Barack Obama, frequently naming Udall and Obama in the same sentence, as well as referring to Udall's support for the nation's new health care law and his vote for the 2008 stimulus plan.

"Barack Obama and Mark Udall have put tremendous pressure on this country," Gardner said.

Udall countered by criticizing Gardner for siding with Republicans during the partial government shutdown in the aftermath of devastating floods in Colorado last year.

"You hurt the people of Colorado. You hurt the recovery," Udall said.

"I can't believe you're politicizing a tragedy," Gardner snapped back.

The high-stakes race is Udall's first re-election bid after taking office in 2008 during a banner year for Democrats. Gardner has long been considered a rising star in the GOP, and his entry into the race this year catapulted the contest into one of most competitive in the nation.

Most polls show Gardner tied with Udall.

Both parties have spent millions on the race in this swing state, and when the contest is decided it could be the most expensive Senate race in Colorado history.

The candidates debated Saturday evening in Grand Junction at an event hosted by Club 20, an influential western Colorado advocacy group.

Republicans have made Obama's low approval ratings and the country's health-care overhaul a big issue in the campaign.

"You promised the American people that if you liked your health-care plan, you can keep your health-care plan," Gardner asked Udall. "When did you know that that promise was not going to be kept?"

ACROSS THE NATION

Rescuers end search for missing plane off Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—After scouring an expanse of white-capped waters off Jamaica for three days, rescuers lost hope of finding a prominent New York couple or recovering wreckage of their small plane that traveled on a ghostly journey last week after the pair was apparently incapacitated. On Sunday, the Jamaican military and the U.S. Coast Guard both decided to suspend air-and-sea searches for Laurence and Jane Glazer, whose single-engine plane flew on its own for 1,700 miles (2,700 kilometers) Friday before running out of fuel and slamming into deep waters some 14 miles (22 kilometers) off Port Antonio on Jamaica's northeast coast. U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Todd Coggeshall, chief of response management, said the agency called off search-and-rescue operations with "extremely great care and deliberation." He said a decision is made to suspend a search only after the "area is saturated several times with a maximum number of assets, resources and crew effort, and persons in distress are still not located."

Mountain lion attacks 6-year-old California boy

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—A mountain lion attacked a 6-year-old boy Sunday in Northern California and began dragging him away before his father and another man fought the animal off, authorities said. The boy suffered bite wounds and scratches on his head and neck following the attack, which was reported about 1 p.m. at a hiking trail in an open space preserve near the Silicon Valley city of Cupertino, Lt. Paul Foy of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said. He was recovering at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, where he was listed in fair condition, hospital spokeswoman Joy Alexiou said.

Harvard's health school to get record $350M gift

BOSTON (AP)—A $350 million gift pledged to Harvard University's School of Public Health is the largest single donation in the university's long history, officials said, and will help bolster research in several key areas including global pandemics. The donation, to be formally announced Monday, comes from a philanthropic foundation established by the family of T.H. Chan, a Hong Kong real estate developer who died in 1986. In a rarity for Harvard, the school will be renamed the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The only other school within the university to bear an individual's name is the Harvard Kennedy School, named for John F. Kennedy.

Asia

Water shortages lead to 'tanker mafia' in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Every summer, when Minoo Phakey's water runs out, she does what most people do in her middle-class neighborhood: She calls the mafia.

Within an hour, a man in a tanker arrives, carrying a load of dubious water drawn illegally from the city's groundwater. With India's capital gripped by its annual hot season water shortage, the city's so-called tanker mafia is doing a roaring trade. An estimated 2,000 illegal tankers ply New Delhi's roads every day, lifelines to millions whose taps have run dry, and symptoms of a much bigger problem—the city's desperately dysfunctional water system.

The tankers don't come cheap. But some Delhi-ites have no choice.

"You need water, you will pay anything, right?" says Phakey, a marketing executive.

She is hardly alone. In a city known for its vertiginous inequalities, the shortage affects people from both upscale gated communities and dust-blown slums, as every day, the city's supply falls more than 160 million gallons short.

Most residents have piped water for just a couple hours a day, and almost a quarter have none at all. With a leaky water infrastructure long overwhelmed by new arrivals, New Delhi is grappling with a dizzying social and environmental challenge, worsened by chaotic management. For many, it is a distressing reminder of a daily reality that lags behind India's superpower dreams.

While New Delhi has had water troubles for decades, the shortage has become critical in recent years as the city's population has grown with little or no planning, rising from 9 million in 1991 to almost 17 million today.

AP

In this Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014 photo, a woman carries plastic containers to fill drinking water from a water tanker, due to unavailability of tap water supply, in New Delhi, India.

Even many of the wealthiest neighborhoods get water for just an hour in the morning, with residents rushing to turn on pumps and fill storage tanks when the municipal supply flows.

The most urgent problem, though, is getting water to the sprawling neighborhoods of illegally constructed buildings, home to 40 percent of the city's residents and largely without water lines. The city's water agency, the Delhi Jal Board, sends 900 tankers onto the crowded roads every day. In some neighborhoods, a tanker passes every few minutes, its load sloshing down its sides.

But it's nowhere near enough. Tankers usually stop for just 15 minutes, while dozens of people crowd around waving buckets and plastic tubes. Tempers flare in the fierce heat; fights are frequent. In some areas, people get just 3 liters (quarts).

In a slum in Vasant Kunj, a young woman, Fatima, keeps her entire week's supply in five 50-liter (13-gallon) plastic containers lined up next to her bed. They take up a third of the 3.5-meter (12-foot) metal box where she, her husband and child live.

"Sometimes only one water tanker comes, sometimes they come after a day's gap," says Fatima, who uses only one name. "We are poor people. If we sit and wait like this for a whole day for the water tanker, when will we go out to earn our daily wage?"

New Delhi's water authority downplays the problem.

"I wouldn't call it a crisis," says Vijay Kumar, the agency's chief. "If you look at Delhi overall, certain pockets are water-scarce—not all."

Those pockets, though, are home to roughly 3.5 million people.

The water board says it doesn't have enough water and largely blames neighboring states, which it says failed to deliver extra water to the city after a 2012 canal renovation.

"That is our biggest constraint," says Kumar. "Once we are in position to commission the entire infrastructure, water will be more equitably distributed, more rationally managed. But what is crucial is that we should get more water."

Still, critics say the city—which is close to two major rivers and has a significant water table—shouldn't be running short. In theory, as the World Bank noted, New Delhi should have more water available per capita than Paris.

Instead, critics say, the water board has squandered its resources.

"Delhi is a very privileged city in terms of water availability. So Delhi seems to be a case of crisis of mismanagement," says Himanshu Thakkar, who runs the New Delhi-based South Asian Network for Dams, Rivers and People, a research and environmentalist organization.

US official in Beijing to prepare for Obama visit

BEIJING (AP)—The White House's top national security adviser began talks in Beijing on Monday with top Chinese military and diplomatic officials on bilateral challenges such as a recent close-encounter between their air force planes over the South China Sea.

Susan Rice met with China's top diplomat, State Councilor Yang Jiechi, on a trip to pave the way for a visit by President Barack Obama to Beijing in November.

Rice said that among all the other issues facing the United States, Obama still considered China to be a priority and that her primary reason for coming to Beijing was to hammer out the agenda for the November meeting between Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

At the sprawling Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in western Beijing, Yang told her that the countries needed to "truly respect each other's core interests and major concerns and constructively manage our differences and sensitive issues." He said they would discuss military relations, counter terrorism, the Middle East, North Korea, South Sudan, Iran and other topics of mutual concern.

Rice is scheduled to meet Tuesday with China's defense and foreign ministers before departing Wednesday.

The countries' relationship has been tested by U.S. allegations of Chinese military cyberspying and Obama's stated pivot to Asia, which China sees as an effort to contain its rising power.

On Aug. 19, a Chinese jet made several close passes near a Navy P-8 Poseidon plane, coming within 30 feet (9 meters) of it at one point. The incident took place about 135 miles (220 kilometers) from Hainan, which is home to naval airfields and a highly sensitive submarine base.

China rejected American accusations that its pilot acted recklessly and unprofessionally and says it will continue responding to U.S. surveillance flights off its coast.

An editorial last week from the official Xinhua News Agency referred to the encounter as an example of Washington's resorting to "provocations out of fear for Beijing's growing economic prowess and regional clout."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indian court: Priest should face charges in US

NEW DELHI (AP)—An Indian court has recommended that the government extradite a Roman Catholic priest wanted in the United States on charges of sexually assaulting a teenage parishioner in Minnesota, a lawyer in the case said Sunday. It's now up to the federal government to decide whether the Rev. Joseph Palanivel Jeyapaul should be sent to the U.S. to stand trial, said Naveen Kumar Matta, a public prosecutor for India's Ministry of External Affairs. The recommendation by Magistrate Ajay Garg was made Friday. The United States had requested in 2011 that Jeyapaul be extradited. Jeyapaul, a 59-year-old Indian citizen, has denied molesting the 14-year-old girl in 2004 when he was working at the Blessed Sacrament Church in Greenbush, near the Canadian border.

China kills nearly 5,000 dogs to control rabies

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities killed almost 5,000 dogs in one city after blaming five human deaths on rabies, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday. The city of Baoshan in southwestern Yunnan province killed 4,900 dogs and vaccinated another 100,000 in its anti-rabies campaign, Xinhua said. The city issued an urgent order calling for authorities to tightly regulate dogs and kill stray ones. Chinese governments often order such widespread dog culls or ban dog ownership to control the spread of rabies. That has sparked outcry from some dog owners and animal rights activists who call for sterilizing and vaccinating dogs rather than killing them. In 2009, authorities in the northern city of Hanzhong reportedly killed about 37,000 dogs after a rabies outbreak, including clubbing some of the animals to death.

Detained American in North Korea gets trial date

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Detained American Matthew Miller will be tried next Sunday, North Korean state media said, less than a week after the detainee made a rare foreign media appearance to plead for help.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said in a brief dispatch Sunday that the Supreme Court decided to "judge" Miller on Sept. 14. It did not elaborate on specific charges against him, although past reports have accused him of hostile acts.

Miller, 24, was detained after entering the country April 10, when he tore up his tourist visa at the airport and shouted that he wanted to seek asylum, KCNA has reported.

In a brief interview with The Associated Press in Pyongyang last week, Miller and two other Americans held by North Korea, Jeffrey Fowle and Kenneth Bae, called for Washington to send a high-ranking U.S. representative to make a direct appeal for their freedom.

North Korea has often used detained Americans as bargaining chips with Washington in the past. Senior statesmen including former President Bill Clinton have made trips to Pyongyang to secure the release of detainees.

Bae, a Korean-American missionary who is accused of plotting to overthrow Pyongyang regime, has been sentenced to a 15-year term. He said last week that his health has deteriorated at the labor camp where he works eight hours a day.

World

Arab League chief: Confront Islamic State group

AP

A Kurdish Peshmerga fighter waves a Kurdish flag at a combat outpost on the outskirts of Makhmour, 300 kilometers (186 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014. The U.S. and nine key allies agreed Friday, that the Islamic State group is a significant threat to NATO countries and that they will take on the militants by squeezing their financial resources and going after them with military might.

CAIRO (AP)—The head of the Arab League urged its members Sunday to confront Islamic State extremists "militarily and politically," issuing an apparent call to arms as President Barack Obama prepares to go to lawmakers and the American public with his own plan to stop the militants.

Backing from the 22-country Arab League could provide crucial support across the Middle East for Obama's effort to assemble an international coalition against the Islamic State, the marauding group that has conquered a swath of Iraq and Syria and committed beheadings and mass killings to sow terror.

Already, NATO forces have agreed to take on the extremists.

Arab League chief Nabil Elaraby said that what is needed from Arab countries is a "clear and firm decision for a comprehensive confrontation" with "cancerous and terrorist" groups. The Arab League includes Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Obama will meet with congressional leaders on Tuesday and then outline his plan to the war-weary American public Wednesday, the eve of the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"I just want the American people to understand the nature of the threat and how we're going to deal with it and to have confidence that we'll be able to deal with it," Obama said in an interview broadcast Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

In new airstrikes Sunday, the U.S. targeted Islamic State fighters in Iraq's long-contested Anbar province for the first time, launching attacks with bomber and fighter aircraft.

The American military said the airstrikes destroyed, among other things, an Islamic Group command post and several vehicles, two of which were carrying anti-aircraft artillery.

It wasn't immediately clear what steps the Arab League would take in supporting the West's campaign against the Islamic State. And reaching a consensus on how to move could be complicated by Arab world rivalries and member countries' different spheres of influence.

An Arab diplomat speaking to Egypt's official MENA news agency said a resolution backing cooperation with the U.S. would go before members Sunday. He did not elaborate.

But a draft resolution obtained by The Associated Press offered only routine condemnation of terrorist groups operating in the region. It also called on member states to improve information-sharing and legal expertise in combating terrorism, and to prevent the paying of ransom to militants.

Elaraby himself noted that the Arab League's member states have failed to help each other in the past when facing local armed groups, often because of disagreements and fear of being accused of meddling in one another's affairs.

He called the Islamic State a threat to the existence of Iraq and its neighbors. It is "one of the examples of the challenges that are violently shaking the Arab world, and one the Arab League, regrettably, has not been able to confront," he said.

A decades-old joint Arab defense agreement states that member countries can act alone or collectively to ward off attack and restore peace by all means, including force. Elaraby, a longtime Egyptian diplomat, said an agreement to activate that clause in the 1950 agreement is needed.

Before the Arab League meeting, Elaraby spoke by telephone to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to discuss the Islamic State insurgents.

Ukraine shelling claims lives, sets houses ablaze

SPARTAK, Ukraine (AP)—Shelling and other clashes between government forces and Russian-backed separatists threw the cease-fire agreement in eastern Ukraine into deepening peril Sunday, two days after it took hold.

At least two houses hit by artillery fire blazed in the rural village of Spartak, which lies just north of the main rebel-held city of Donetsk and adjacent to the airport.

A man whose house was struck by a shell said rebels had fired from a spot nearby, and that apparently provoked a retaliatory attack from Ukrainian government troops.

A group of rebel fighters in the village danced and drank Sunday morning in celebration after what they said was a successful assault on a Ukrainian military encampment in the area. One said the group had captured eight government troops, though no captives could be seen.

The fighter, who gave only the nom de guerre Khokhol, said the truce was not being respected by either side.

"There was mortar shelling around 20 minutes ago here in Spartak," he said. "There is no cease-fire for anyone."

The truce—signed on Friday by Ukraine, Russia and the Kremlin-backed rebels after five months of fighting that killed at least 2,600 civilians and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes—was shattered late Saturday by shelling on the outskirts of the coastal town of Mariupol. The city council said Sunday that one civilian was killed and a serviceman wounded.

The rebels recently opened a new front on the coast in what many Ukrainians fear is an attempt to secure a land corridor between Russia and the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in March.

Amnesty International on Sunday condemned all sides in the grinding conflict, saying they have "shown disregard for civilian lives and are blatantly violating their international obligations."

Blasts powerful enough to be heard in downtown Donetsk appeared to be coming from the direction of the airport early Sunday morning. The government-held terminal, which has been reduced to little more than a burned-out shell, has been under unremitting attack from separatist forces for months.

A rebel statement said Ukrainian forces fired on their positions in six locations on Saturday, including near the airport, and several rebels were killed.

Islamic extremists grab towns in northeast Nigeria

YOLA, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's Islamic extremist group, Boko Haram, has seized more towns along Nigeria's northeastern border with Cameroon and is adopting a strategy of encouraging civilians to stay, witnesses said Sunday, as the militants pursue their new aim to carve out an "Islamic caliphate" under their black and white flag.

Nigerian army soldiers fled when hundreds of insurgents in stolen military armored personnel carriers, trucks and motorcycles attacked Michika on Sunday, said Marry Dauda, a fleeing resident.

She said an air force jet fighter arrived, but did nothing but surveillance. ``The jet continued to hover over the town without attacking the terrorists," she told The Associated Press.

On Saturday, the insurgents took Gulak, an administrative headquarters of Adamawa state, said resident Michael Kirshinga, who also ran away. The nearby towns of Duhu, Shuwa, Kirshinga and others also fell in assaults over Friday night and Saturday, witnesses said.

Further north, soldiers fought off rebels advancing Saturday on Maiduguri, the Borno state capital, headquarters of the military campaign against the insurgency and the birthplace of Boko Haram. The military attacked the rebels' camp at a village outside Kondudga, just 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Maiduguri.

Thunderous gunfire could be heard in Maiduguri throughout Saturday, instilling fear in already panicked residents. Hundreds fled the city even before hearing the sounds of battle.

The soldiers killed dozens of the extremists outside Konduga, said a member of the vigilante group that fights alongside the military. The soldiers were sent to retake the town of Bama, which fell to Boko Haram a week ago, but stopped at Konduga and refused to advance further, said a vigilante commander. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press.

Bama is littered with bodies, residents who fled the town told the AP. The extremists were killing men, but sparing women and children, they said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran's supreme leader undergoes prostate surgery

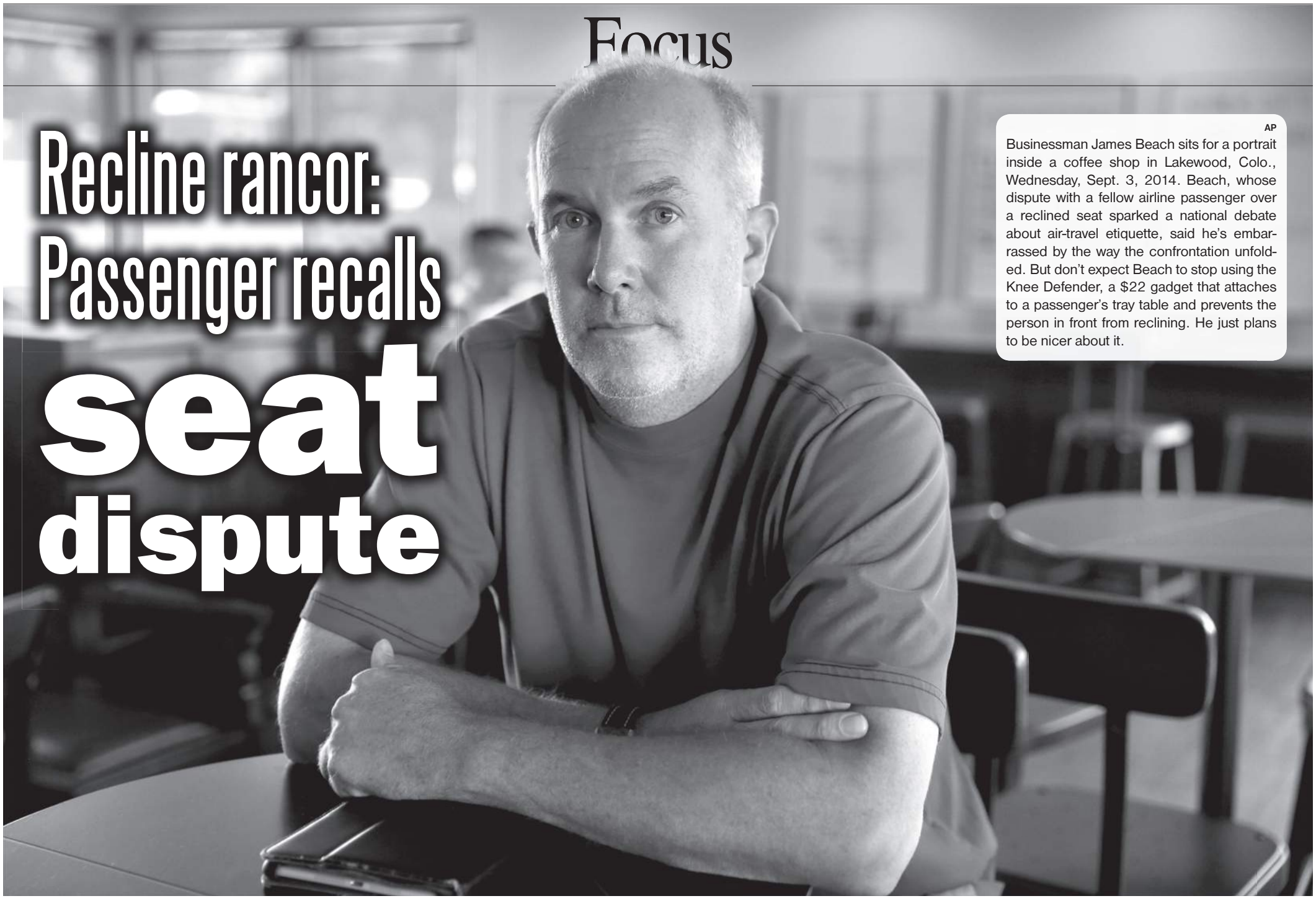
TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's official news agency says the country's supreme leader has undergone prostate surgery in a Tehran hospital. The report describes the surgery as "routine" and says it was successful. The 75-year-old Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has final say on all state matters in Iran and has been the country's top leader since 1989. The report by IRNA says the surgery took place on Monday morning at a government hospital in the Iranian capital. Meanwhile, Iranian state TV says Khamenei told the station before the surgery that there was "no room for concern" and that it was a routine operation. Media reports on the state of health of Iran's top leader are extremely rare.

Boy in Spain with brain tumor being readied to fly

MADRID (AP)—A British boy who has a severe brain tumor is being readied to travel from southern Spain for treatment in the Czech Republic's capital aboard a specially-prepared private jet, officials said late Sunday. The transfer of 5-year-old Ashya King could begin "in the next few hours," according to Manuel Paz, medical director of Malaga's Children's and Maternity Hospital, and Daniel Perez, the province of Malaga's health representative. Paz and Perez met with King's parents, and they agreed the move could take place. Paz said the boy was in a stable condition and able to fly to Prague for "alternative treatment." The boy's parents, Brett and Naghmeh King, were initially arrested by Spanish police after they removed Ashya without medical consent from a hospital in the English city of Southampton and drove him to Malaga. They were later released after charges against them were dropped by British police.

Focus

Recline rancor: Passenger recalls seat dispute



AP

Businessman James Beach sits for a portrait inside a coffee shop in Lakewood, Colo., Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014. Beach, whose dispute with a fellow airline passenger over a reclined seat sparked a national debate about air-travel etiquette, said he's embarrassed by the way the confrontation unfolded. But don't expect Beach to stop using the Knee Defender, a $22 gadget that attaches to a passenger's tray table and prevents the person in front from reclining. He just plans to be nicer about it.

NEW YORK (AP)—The businessman whose dispute with a fellow airline passenger over a reclined seat sparked a national debate about air-travel etiquette says he's embarrassed by the way the confrontation unfolded and regrets his behavior.

But don't expect James Beach to stop using the Knee Defender, a $22 gadget that attaches to a passenger's tray table and prevents the person in front from reclining. He just plans to be nicer about it.

"I'm pretty ashamed and embarrassed by what happened," Beach told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "I could have handled it so much better."

The argument became so tense that the pilots of the Aug. 24 fight diverted the Boeing 737 to Chicago. An AP story about the incident started a broad public discussion of whether passengers should be allowed to recline. In the days that followed, two other flights were diverted because of similar disagreements.

Beach, 48, reached out to the AP to clarify a few things about the episode, primarily that he initially complied with flight attendant instructions to remove the device.

For the record, he said, he never reclines his seat.

"You have the right, but it seems rude to do it," said Beach, who is 6-foot-1.

The dispute occurred on the final leg of Beach's trip back to his home near Denver. After returning to the U.S. from a business trip to Moscow, he went on standby for an earlier flight for the leg from Newark, New Jersey, to Denver and was given a middle seat. When the jet was airborne, Beach took out his laptop to review a contract for his company, which develops waste recycling facilities, primarily in Russia. He used the Knee Defender—a Christmas gift a few years ago from his wife—to prevent the woman in front from reclining.

AP

In this Sept. 23, 2013 photo, rows of slimline seats await installation aboard a Southwest Airlines 737 at the carrier's headquarters in Dallas. "Seats are getting closer together," says Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants, which represents 60,000 flight attendants at 19 airlines.

U.S. airlines prohibit use of the Knee Defender, but the devices are not illegal.

"I put them in maybe a third of the time. Usually, the person in front tries (to recline) their seat a couple of times, and then they forget about it," Beach said. The device comes with a courtesy card to tell passengers that you've blocked them, but he doesn't use it.

"I'd rather just kind of let them think the seat is broken, rather than start a confrontation," he said.

Beach, who said he flies 75,000 to 100,000 miles a year, wasn't so lucky this time.

When the flight attendants came through the cabin to serve beverages, the woman said her seat was broken. That's when Beach told one of them about the Knee Defender. The flight attendant asked him to remove the device, and Beach said he did.

"As soon as I started to move it, she just full force, blasted the seat back, right on the laptop, almost shattered the screen. My laptop came flying onto my lap," he said.

Beach complained, saying that he couldn't work like that, but the flight attendant informed him that the woman had the right to recline. Both passengers were sitting in United's Economy Plus section, which offers 4 more inches of legroom than the rest of coach.

His reply: "You asked me to let her recline a few inches, and she just took 100 percent of it."

That's when Beach's anger boiled over. He said he pushed the woman's seat forward and put the Knee Defender back in. The woman stood up and threw a cup of soda—not water, as previously reported—at him.

"It was really just surreal and shocking. Did that just happen?" Beach recalls. "I said, `I hope you brought your checkbook because you just threw your Sprite all over my $2,000 laptop.'"

The flight attendant stepped in quickly and moved the woman to another seat.

"I said a lot of things I shouldn't have said to the flight attendant: some bad words, what's your name and `I can't believe you're treating me like this,'" he recalled.

The pilots then changed course for Chicago—a decision that Beach said "amazed" him.

"The plane was dead quiet for the rest of that flight," he added. "Nobody said a word."

Ira Goldman, who invented the Knee Defender, said the passengers on the other diverted flights got upset after their knees and head were hit by reclining seats. He said airlines are "trying to wish this problem away."

His solution: Install seats that slide forward within a shell to recline or to allow the use of his device, which has been sold since 2003.

"They're selling the same space twice—to me to sit down and then inviting people to put their seat backs there as well," he said.

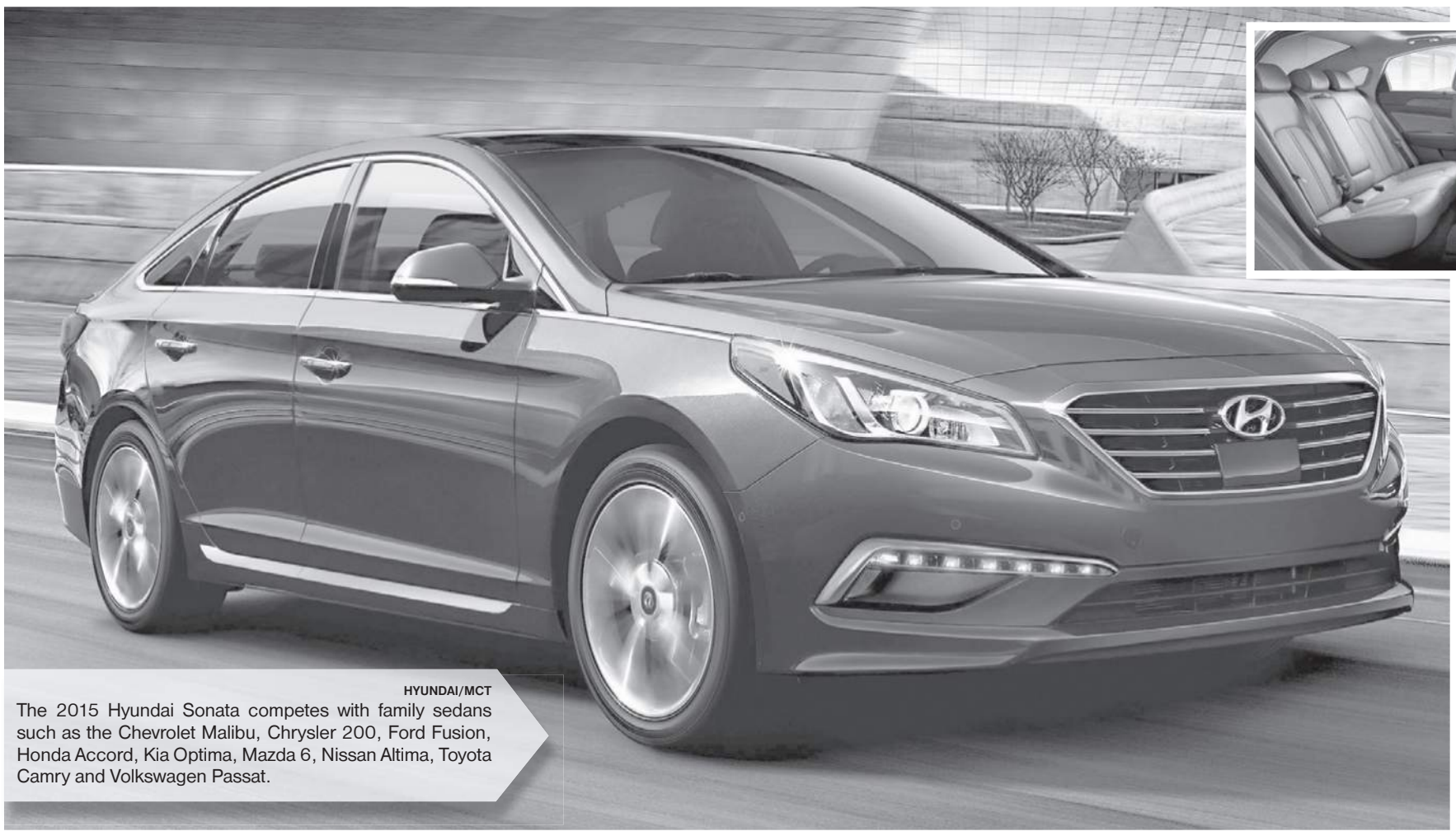
When the plane landed in Chicago, police escorted Beach and the woman off. Neither police, nor the airline or the Transportation Security Administration has released any information about the passenger seated in front of Beach.

No criminal or civil charges were brought against them, but United would not let them continue on to Denver.

Beach says he spent the night at an airport hotel and then caught a flight home the next morning. He flew Spirit Airlines. It has no reclining seats.

Overdrive

2015 Hyundai Sonata tries to match predecessor's charisma



HYUNDAI/MCT
The 2015 Hyundai Sonata competes with family sedans such as the Chevrolet Malibu, Chrysler 200, Ford Fusion, Honda Accord, Kia Optima, Mazda 6, Nissan Altima, Toyota Camry and Volkswagen Passat.

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

The Hyundai Sonata is a tough act to follow. Automakers like Toyota, Nissan, Ford and Chevrolet learned that when the revolutionary sixth-generation Sonata went on sale in 2010 as a 2011 model.

The sleek midsize sedan's value, looks and fuel economy won Hyundai legions of new buyers, carried the brand to new heights and sent other automakers back to the drawing board.

Now it's Hyundai's turn to feel the pressure as the three-star 2015 Hyundai Sonata tries to fill its predecessor's tire tracks.

The new Sonata makes Hyundai competitive with the best new midsize sedans, but falls short of the leaders.

The new Sonata features the second generation of the fluidic design styling theme Hyundai introduced on the 2011 Sonata. The look features a prominent grille, sweeping roofline, short rear deck, crisp horizontal lines and sharply raked windshield and rear window. The 2015 Genesis sport sedan is the other Hyundai sporting fluidic design 2.0.

The Sonata competes with family sedans such as the Chevrolet Malibu, Chrysler 200, Ford Fusion, Honda Accord, Kia Optima, Mazda 6, Nissan Altima, Toyota Camry and Volkswagen Passat.

Sonata prices start at $21,150 for a base model with a 185-horsepower, 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine. A sporty optional 245-hp 2.0-liter turbocharged engine in the Sonata 2.0T starts at $28,575. All Sonatas come with a six-speed automatic transmission.

Hyundai will add hybrid and high-mpg models of the Sonata with other drivetrains over the next several months.

None of its competitors matches the Sonata's features for that price, but Hyundai's execution of some features is not up to the standard of leading models. The adaptive cruise control accelerates and brakes the car less smoothly, for instance. The lane departure alert is fussy, sounding too often at highway speeds. I turned it off after a few miles, the last thing you want with a safety feature.

The Sonata's fuel economy trails leading midsize sedans. The Hyundai's EPA rating of 24 mpg in the city, 35 on the highway and 28 combined trails the combined rating of the more powerful 2.5L Malibu and equally powerful four-cylinder Accord, Altima and Mazda6. The Sonata's combined m.p.g. matches the 1.5L Ecoboost Fusion, 2.4L Chrysler 200, 1.8L Passat and 2.5L Camry.

The engine delivers acceptable performance around town and on the highway.

The steering feel, ride and handling are competitive. A sport setting adjusts steering effort, throttle response and shift points, but drivers interested in midsize performance should probably try the Sonata turbo.

The 2015 Sonata is noticeably quieter than its predecessor, an improvement owners will appreciate. Highway noise is now comparable to other good family sedans.

The passenger compartment is one of the largest in the segment. There's plenty of headroom despite the car's low profile. The rear seat provides good leg room. The trunk is large and accommodating.

The interior materials look good, with light-colored leather and simulated wood in my test car. However, there's less padding on the doors, dash and armrests than the Chrysler 200 and some other competitors offer.

The voice recognition system works well. The gauges and controls are clear and simple. There's no good place to put USB and 12-volt devices, just an open bin at the base of the center stack that looks sloppy with a phone, iPod and cords in it. My iPod switched from shuffle mode to playing my library track-by-track every time I turned the car off.

The 2015 Sonata lacks its predecessor's breakthrough appeal, but its price, looks and many available features keep Hyundai competitive with other midsize sedans.

NUTS & BOLTS

2015 Hyundai Sonata Limited

- Front-wheel-drive five-seat midsize sedan
- Price as tested: $31,700 (excluding destination charge)
- Rating: 3 (out of four stars)
- Reasons to buy: Looks; features; price; voice recognition.
- Shortcomings: Fuel economy; interior materials; interior storage; refinement of some features.
- Engine: 2.4L 16-valve four-cylinder
- Power: 185 hp @ 6,000 r.p.m.; 178 lb-ft of torque @ 4,000 r.p.m.
- Transmission: Six-speed automatic
- EPA fuel economy rating: 24 mpg city/35 highway/28 combined. Regular gasoline
- Dimensions
  Wheelbase: 110.4 inches
  Length: 191.1 inches
  Width: 73.4 inches
  Height: 58.1 inches
  Curb weight: 3,371 lbs.

MOTORING

Locked-up brakes a real stumper

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: Last week I parallel-parked my 2003 Hyundai Sante Fe. I came out to drive away and went about 3 feet before the car stopped like the brakes had locked up. I went back and forth about 3 feet at least three more times with the same results. I left the car and came back the next morning and drove to a garage with no problems. The garage scanned all vehicle control modules for codes—none found. They also found no service bulletins from Hyundai pertaining to this symptom. They inspected all brake components—all are in good condition. Any suggestion?

A: I'm not often completely stumped by an automotive question, but this one has me really intrigued. Looking at the issue logically, my first thought is something physically stopping the vehicle from moving more than 3 feet. Do you have any friends—or enemies—who might play a trick on you like a strategically placed pair of cinder blocks? I remember an unnamed friend who, for the fun of it, chained the rear axle of an old Chevy wagon to the adjacent fire hydrant and watched as his friend tried to pull away. I'll leave the results to your imagination!

What kind of mechanical or electronic issue could have caused this and then suddenly disappeared without a trace? I'm open to suggestions, but the only normal "action" that might have somehow compounded into this is initialization of the antilock braking system. Each time the vehicle is started, in the first few miles per hour of driving, the ABS tests itself by actuating the pump, dump valves and solenoids to make sure they're working. This may be felt as a slight vibration in the brake pedal.

With that said, this initialization only occurs once per key cycle, so it doesn't seem particularly likely to be the culprit. In fact, no brake lockup would seem likely because the vehicle rolls roughly one tire revolution before the lockup.

Anyone else want to take a shot at this?

Oh, almost forgot—was there a parking ticket on the windshield? And did you check for a wheel lock to disable the car?

Q: I have a 2014 Acura RDX that is a very nice vehicle except for the fact that the passenger seat cannot be raised vertically. My wife is fairly short and sits too low compared with the driver's side, which has an electric lift. The dealer said that there is no fix for this. It seems like a simple problem. Have you heard of any electric, or manual lifts for this ? Or, simply some wedges installed under the seat mounts?

A: You could try a mobility store to find a booster for her seat, or perhaps an auto upholstery shop could build up the seat with thicker or firmer foam.

The reason it seems simple yet there's no solution from the dealer is that any change that alters a motor vehicle creates a liability issue for the dealer and carmaker.

Personally, I have installed spacers under the seat mounts on a couple of my personal vehicles, but like I said, I'd suggest a visit to a mobility store.

Q: When I was topping off the oil in my car I accidentally put in half a quart of DEX/MERC automatic transmission fluid. Can I drive it? If yes, how far before changing the oil? Or do I need to change it now?

A: Automatic transmission fluid is primarily a high-quality lubricating oil with special additives for the transmission, so you probably don't have an immediate problem. But the fact that you were topping up the oil means it's been in the crankcase for a while, so why not get the oil changed now and put the worry aside?

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver.

Life & Style

Joan Rivers remembered at star-studded funeral

NEW YORK (AP)—Howard Stern delivered the eulogy, Broadway singer-actress Audra McDonald sang "Smile" and bagpipers played "New York, New York" at Joan Rivers' funeral Sunday, a star-studded send-off that—like the late comedian herself—brought together the worlds of Hollywood, theater, fashion and media.

At a funeral befitting a superstar, the New York City Gay Men's Chorus sang Broadway hits including "Hey Big Spender" before six-time Tony Award-winner McDonald sang her tribute to Rivers, a champion of theater for decades.

Tributes and reminiscences were delivered by TV anchor Deborah Norville, close friend Margie Stern, columnist Cindy Adams and Rivers' daughter, Melissa, who spoke about how she respected her mother, who died Thursday at 81, and appreciated everyone's support.

Hugh Jackman sang "Quiet Please, There's a Lady On Stage" at the end of the memorial, and bagpipers from the New York City Police Department played on the streets as mourners filed out of Temple Emanu-El, many dabbing their eyes.

"She would love this. We've all said this so many times: The one person who would really think this is the greatest thing ever is the lady who it's all about, and she's not here," said Norville afterward, amid the throngs of well-wishers and sound of bagpipes.

A legion of notables turned out to remember Rivers: comedians Kathy Griffin, Rosie O'Donnell and Whoopi Goldberg; E! network "Fashion Police" colleague and friend Kelly Osbourne; Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick; and celebrity doctor Mehmet Oz.

Theater stars Bernadette Peters, Alan Cumming and Tommy Tune were there. Record producer Clive Davis was, too. Fashion designers Carolina Herrera, Dennis Basso and Michael Kors were in attendance. Stars from TV such as Barbara Walters, Geraldo Rivera, Diane Sawyer, Kathie Lee Gifford, Hoda Kotb and Andy Cohen. Late night band leader Paul Shaffer. And moguls Barry Diller, Donald Trump and Steve Forbes.

"It was uplifting. We were celebrating her life," Basso said.

Mourners had lined up outside the Fifth Avenue synagogue and waited for their names to be checked against a list before entering. A crowd of media stood watch behind barriers, and fans from as far away as Australia and England lined the streets.

AP

Melissa Rivers and her son Cooper Endicott walk to a waiting car after the funeral service for comedian Joan Rivers at Temple Emanu-El in New York Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014.

Actress Susan Claassen, who met Rivers in London in 2008 when both had one-woman shows, came from Tucson, Arizona, to honor her friend. "I always like to say that in a world of knockoffs, Joan was an original," she said.

The comedian detailed in her 2012 book "I Hate Everyone ... Starting With Me" that she hoped for "a huge showbiz affair with lights, cameras, action" and "Hollywood all the way." Instead of a rabbi talking, Rivers asked for "Meryl Streep crying, in five different accents" and "a wind machine so that even in the casket my hair is blowing just like Beyonce's." Indeed, her wishes were so important they were printed in the funeral program.

The funeral program also included a page with three classic Rivers' lines printed out: "Can we talk?" ''Who are you wearing?" and "Because I'm a funny person."

Rivers was a trailblazer for all comics, but especially for women. The raspy-voiced blonde with the brash New York accent was a TV talk show host, stage, film and TV actress, fashion critic, and she sold a line of jewelry.

The cause of death is being investigated. Rivers was hospitalized on Aug. 28 after she went into cardiac arrest during a routine procedure at a doctor's office. The New York state health department is investigating the circumstances, and the New York City medical examiner said tests to determine the cause of death were inconclusive.

Her publicist said that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to God's Love, We Deliver; Guide Dogs for the Blind; or Our House.

Chris Rock debuts 'Top Five' at Toronto

TORONTO (AP)—Showcasing his most personal movie yet, Chris Rock premiered his third feature film directing effort, "Top Five," at the Toronto International Film Festival.

"Top Five" debuted Saturday night at the festival, where it was received warmly by a boisterous audience. Rock wrote, directed and stars in the film, in which he plays a famous comedian trying—and failing—to transition into serious movies.

Rock's last directing effort—2007's "I Think I Love My Wife," which was loosely based on the Eric Rohmer film, "Chloe in the Afternoon"—suggested some semi-serious, Woody Allen-esque ambitions. "Top Five" is an often broad, R-rated comedy, but it's also his most successful realization of his comedic voice on the big screen.

In it, he plays Andre Allen, a popular comic trying to sell America on a Haitian revolution drama, "Uprize," when all his fans really want is for him to be funny. A reporter (Rosario Dawson) spends the day with him just as "Uprize" is hitting theaters and he's preparing for a reality TV-show wedding to his fiancee (Gabrielle Union).

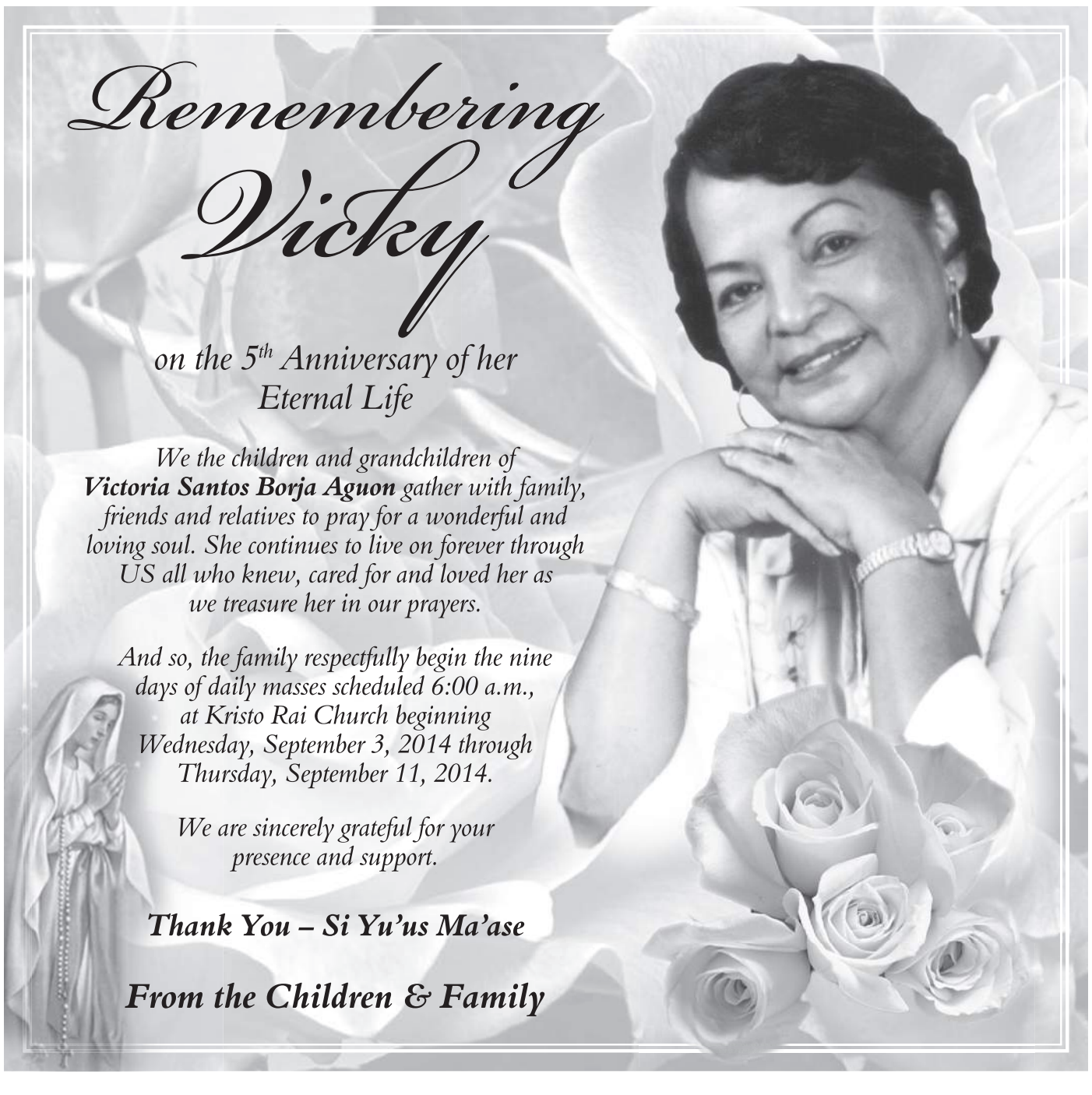
Following the screening, Rock said he was inspired to make a movie about the life of a comedian by TV shows like "Louie" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm." The question many were wondering was how fictional is "Top Five" to Rock.

"The character, it's not exactly me, but I've been through that," said Rock. "Hey, this movie will come out some week and I'll pretty much have—I won't have Rosario—but I'll have a similar day to the day the guy has in the movie."

"Top Five," which is looking for distribution at Toronto, is full of comics including JB Smoove and Cedric the Entertainer. But two cameos stood out: Jerry Seinfeld "makes it rain" at a strip club in a bachelor party scene, and the rapper DMX—to prove that he, too, has other dreams as a perfomer—sings Nat King Cole's "Smile" from a jail cell.

Asked about the difficulty of getting DMX, whose real name is Earl Simmons, to play such a part, Rock replied: "If you've got $30 ... The last couple of years haven't been great for X. I appreciate him, but it's not as hard as you think."

Rock did say he harbors one clearly serious desire: to make a movie about Nat Turner, the African-American slave who led a rebellion in 1831 Virginia that killed 55 white people. Presumably, it wouldn't be called "Uprize."


Remembering
Vicky
on the 5th Anniversary of her
Eternal Life
We the children and grandchildren of
Victoria Santos Borja Aguon gather with family,
friends and relatives to pray for a wonderful and
loving soul. She continues to live on forever through
US all who knew, cared for and loved her as
we treasure her in our prayers.
And so, the family respectfully begin the nine
days of daily masses scheduled 6:00 a.m.,
at Kristo Rai Church beginning
Wednesday, September 3, 2014 through
Thursday, September 11, 2014.
We are sincerely grateful for your
presence and support.
Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
From the Children & Family

Stolen photos of stars find 'safe harbor' online

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Imagine what the Internet would be like if most major websites had imposed controls preventing the naked photos stolen from Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence and other celebrities from being posted online.

The Internet would be less sleazy, but pre-screening more content might also mute its role as a megaphone for exposing abuses in government, big companies and other powerful institutions.

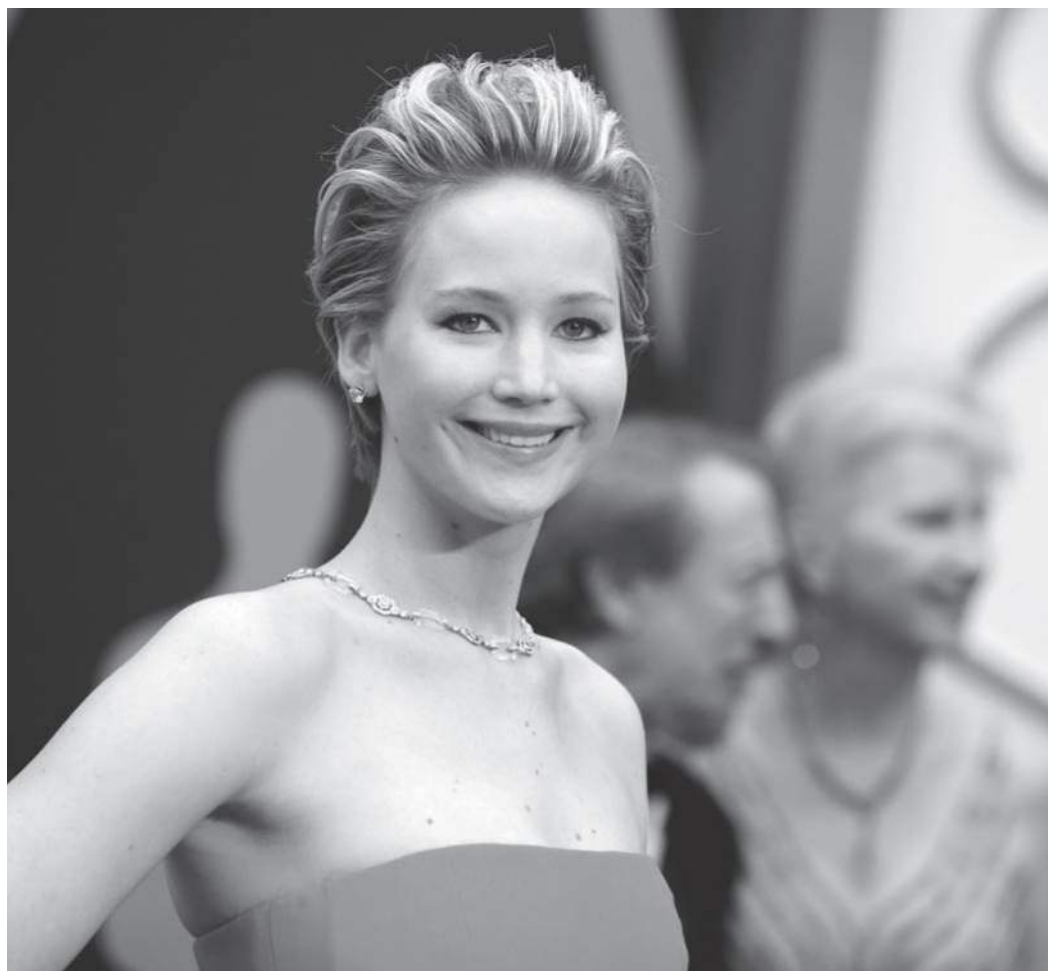
To preserve the Internet as a free-wheeling forum, the U.S. Congress included a key provision in a 1998 law called the Digital Millennium Copyright Act that governs the online distribution of photos, video and text.

A "safe harbor" clause absolves websites of any legal liability for virtually all content posted on their services. The law, known as the DMCA, requires websites and other Internet service providers to remove a piece of content believed to be infringing on a copyright after being notified of a violation by the copyright owner.

Websites have been busily pulling the naked photos of Lawrence and other victims of the high-tech theft presumably because they are being notified of copyright violations or because the images violate the sites' terms of service. The copyright infringements are fairly blatant: The photos were likely taken by either the celebrities themselves or by someone else besides the thieves who hacked into their online accounts to heist copies stored on computers for online backup services such as Apple Inc.'s iCloud.

But the stolen photos weren't removed quickly enough to prevent an unknown number of people from making their own copies on their smartphones, tablets and personal computers.

Although the intrusion into the privacy of Lawrence and other stars probably would have been less rampant if websites weren't protected by the DMCA, most legal experts question whether requiring Internet companies to review content more vigilantly before it's posted would be worth setting precedents that could stifle free expression.



AP

In this March 2, 2014 file photo, Jennifer Lawrence arrives at the Oscarsat the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

"If there is anything the American public dislikes more than an invasion of privacy, it's censorship," says Bruce Sunstein, a Boston attorney specializing in intellectual property rights.

HOW DID THE DMCA COME ABOUT?

As more people began to surf the Web in the mid-1990s, it became increasingly apparent that the Internet was making it easier for people to acquire and post all kinds of content. This made copyright violations more widespread, but music labels, movie studios and book publishers had to go to court to obtain orders to remove each piece of illegal content.

The DMCA represented Congress' attempt to address the copyright challenges posed by the Internet. Among other things, the legislation gave copyright holders a way to request their content to be removed simply by sending an email. Lawmakers also included the safe harbor provision to protect websites from lawsuits alleging that they should never have allowed the content to be posted in the first place.

Some of the safe-harbor protections have faced legal challenges, including a high-profile lawsuit that entertainment conglomerate Viacom Inc. filed against YouTube after the video site was sold to Google for $1.76 billion in 2006. Viacom alleged that YouTube management allowed copyrighted video to be brazenly uploaded to their site because they knew the material would attract more viewers and drive up the value of their company. Google and YouTube ultimately prevailed in the bitter dispute, largely because of the DMCA's safe harbor.

WHY WAS A SAFE HARBOR NEEDED?

If websites could be held liable for copyright violations, they would be thrust into the position of making judgment calls on a piece of content before it's posted online. That would be a daunting task, given the volume of material that Web surfers share on the Internet today. About 144,000 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube alone each day, while Twitter processes more than 500 million tweets per day and Facebook's 1.3 billion users share billions of photos.

"The platforms that host that content can't readily police all of it the way that a newspaper can carefully select what should go in as a letter to the editor," says Harvard University Law School professor Jonathan Zittrain, who is also co-founder of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society.

Some pre-screening of content is still done. YouTube prevents some video from being posted through a copyright-screening tool that was created after Google took over.

Not all copyright violations are caught, so Google is still inundated with takedown requests. In the past month alone, Google says it received requests to remove more than 31 million links in its search engine index directing traffic to content cited as copyright violations. That number doesn't include content posted on YouTube or its blogging service. Google says it complies with the overwhelming majority of the takedown requests.

It's probably a good thing that websites aren't asked to decide what's legal and what's not, says Corynne McSherry, intellectual property director for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a group focused on digital rights. She worries big companies would likely to err on the side of caution and block more content than necessary because they wouldn't want to risk being held liable for something that could dent their earnings and stock price. Small startups, meanwhile, would also likely be prone to block a lot more content because they can't afford anything that could drain their finances.

"The Internet, as we know it, would not exist if it were not for the DMCA's safe harbor," McSherry says. "If we are ever in a position where Internet service providers have to monitor their sites, I think Internet users will lose."

DON'T WEBSITES ALREADY BLOCK OR REMOVE MATERIAL THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE COPYRIGHT VIOLATIONS?

Yes, but those decisions typically involve violations of a websites own rules. For instance, YouTube and Facebook try to block pornographic images from appearing on their services. Both of those sites, along with Twitter, also forbid graphic violence, such as the recent beheadings of U.S. journalists videotaped by the Islamic State militants that killed them. In many instances, though, the websites still rely on their own users to identify posted content that violates the terms of service.

"The lasting test here is of the ethical moment that users face when they choose to seek out or repost photos they know weren't meant to be public," Zittrain says.

At premiere, cast, crew discuss end of 'Anarchy'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The cast and crew of the FX drama "Sons of Anarchy" gathered in Hollywood Saturday night for their seventh, and final, season premiere.

Saying goodbye to the series clearly hasn't been easy for Katey Sagal, who walked the red carpet with her husband, series creator Kurt Sutter.

"I feel enormously grateful for having been here, and I also feel in denial that it's ending," the actress said. "You know, I was weeping a little bit last night about it."

Then why end the hit show, which centers on a family comprised of members of an outlaw motorcycle club, who are in a Shakespearean-like battle for power?

Explained Sutter, "Quite honestly, after seven seasons, because of all the factors, it becomes very expensive to produce."

Four years ago, Sutter transformed that economic reality into artistic inspiration, creating a sprawling mythology that would conclude at the end of a seventh season—gambling that the series would last that long.

This week's premiere, airing Sept. 9, finds the club leader, Jax (Charlie Hunnam), enlisting his brothers to avenge the murder of his wife Tara. What Jax has yet to learn is that the murderer is own mother, Jenna (Sagal), who, thinking she was protecting Jax, repeatedly stabbed Tara in the head with a carving fork.

As usual, Sutter has revealed few plot specifics. However, producers have confirmed that final-season guest stars will include Lea Michele ("Glee") and musician-actress Courtney Love, both of whom attended the premiere.

"I play a kindergarten teacher," Love said, then poked fun of her own bad-girl persona, "because when you think of me, I know, you think, immediately, 'kindergarten teacher.'"

Last year's episodes of "Anarchy" attracted an average of 10 million viewers, making it the most popular series on FX. Hunnam shared a story about a recent encounter with two of those viewers while he was waiting for a bike part in what he called a "sketchy' Los Angeles neighborhood.

"These two dudes came walking toward me, and they were serious dudes," Hunnam recalled. "And I thought, 'What is this going to be about?' And, no smile, nothing, they just said, 'Hey, bro. Thank you, man.' And I said, 'Thank you for what?' And they said, 'You make the 'hood safe on Tuesday nights."

Former NYPD head Ray Kelly has book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Former New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, who presided over a dramatic drop in crime rates during a long and sometimes controversial tenure as head of the country's largest force, has a book deal.

Hachette Books told The Associated Press on Sunday that Kelly is working on a memoir that will come out in the Fall 2015. The book is currently untitled.

"I have had the honor of serving my city and my country, and now Hachette has presented me with an enormous opportunity to share my story, my thoughts on the challenges faced by law enforcement, and my years in public service," Kelly said in a statement issued through Hachette. "Over five decades, New York City and America have changed dramatically, and perhaps I have some perspective on that."

According to Hachette, Kelly will cover his decades in law enforcement and offer advice on leadership. He will discuss his relationship with former Mayor Michael Bloomberg and other government officials and will take on criticisms he faced, including for the monitoring of Muslims and for the department's "stop-and-frisk" policy, which a judge ruled last year sometimes discriminated against minorities.

"The memoir will detail his transformation of the NYPD into a unique counterterrorism and crime-reducing force after the 9/11 attacks, as well as the 16 thwarted terrorist attempts foiled during his tenure," Hachette announced. "Commissioner Kelly will offer lessons, address criticisms, and candidly discuss the many challenges and controversies that he encountered along the way. Readers will also learn how a street-fighting kid from the gritty streets of New York's old Upper West Side became an internationally respected figure."

Kelly, 73, was the city's longest-serving police commissioner and the first to serve non-consecutive terms, the latter running from 2002-2013. He was an independent who has worked under both Democrats and Republicans, including former President Bill Clinton as the head of customs. He is currently a consultant for ABC News and president of risk management services at Cushman & Wakefield, a commercial real estate firm.

Financial terms were not revealed for the memoir. Kelly was represented by Washington attorney Robert Barnett, whose clients include President Barack Obama and former President George W. Bush. Several publishers were interested and Hachette acquired the book after a 5-day auction.

Schwarzenegger makes rare return to state capital

SACRAMENTO, California (AP)—The Governator is back.

Arnold Schwarzenegger is returning to the state capital on Monday for two high-profile public events to discuss California's fight against climate change and unveil his official portrait at the Capitol. Both events are expected to highlight more positive aspects of his two terms as California governor.

Schwarzenegger, who has returned to acting since leaving the governor's office in 2011, has made few political appearances with the exception of advocating for renewable energy.

While in office, the former governor frequently promoted California's landmark 2006 global-warming law, which paved the way for the state's cap-and-trade system for controlling greenhouse-gas emissions by the worst polluters.

The Republican will share the stage with the current governor, Democrat Jerry Brown, at a symposium highlighting California's position at the forefront in developing policies to address climate change. Organizers are using the state's public policies to counter naysayers ahead of United Nations climate-change conferences in Lima, Peru, and Paris.

AP

In this June 13, 2007, file photo, former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, right, and former Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, joke around before a legislative group photo is taken at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif.

Monday's gathering at a 250-seat auditorium at the California Environmental Protection Agency's headquarters will feature research experts, businesses executives from Apple Inc. and UPS Inc., as well as actor Ed Begley Jr. The panels will highlight the costs of failing to move away from fossil fuels, citing noticeable changes such as the expansion of California's wildfire season.

"Arnold always likes to say, 'When the people elected me, they don't see it as Republican air and Democrat air. They just want clean air,' " said Bonnie Reiss, a former administration adviser who now directs the Schwarzenegger Institute at the University of Southern California, which is co-hosting the event.

Schwarzenegger will then head to the Capitol rotunda for a ceremony to unveil his governor's portrait. The painting eventually will be hung on the third floor of the building next to that of his recalled predecessor, Gray Davis.

Schwarzenegger had promised to bring fiscal account-

Death of singer Simone Battle is ruled suicide

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The death of girl group singer Simone Battle was ruled a suicide by hanging, authorities said Sunday.

Battle

The cause of death was determined two days after the 25-year-old Battle was found dead in her West Hollywood home, Los Angeles County Coroner's Lt. Fred Corral said.

Battle became known through her performances on the television show "X Factor." Her five-member band—G.R.L., originally a reboot of the Pussycat Dolls—had been signed by mega-hit maker Dr. Luke.

The group was featured on rapper Pitbull's hit song "Wild Wild Love" earlier this year. Battle told The Associated Press in July that the collaboration gave the group a platform to launch its debut single, "Ugly Heart."

A posting on G.R.L.'s Twitter account on Saturday said, "Words cannot express the depth of our loss. Simone's incredible talent was only surpassed by the size of her heart."

"We will carry her memory with us in everything we do," the posting continued.

'Guardians' tops box office for fourth weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Guardians of the Galaxy" continues to rule the box office universe.

The cosmic Marvel adventure arrived in first place at the box office for a fourth weekend with $10.2 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The domestic haul for "Guardians," which features Chris Pratt and Zoe Saldana as intergalactic do-gooders, now stands at $294.6 million after six weeks of release.

"Guardians" furthered cemented itself as the top grossing film of the year in North America, eclipsing the $259.8 million earned by fellow Marvel movie "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." The sci-fi romp earned an additional $11.5 million internationally, bringing its worldwide total to $586.2 million.

Despite the continued success of "Guardians," the weekend box office marked the slowest of the year with the total for all films released projected at $65 million, down 23 percent from a year ago, according to Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak.

Paramount's "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" sliced off second place in its fifth weekend with $6.5 million, bringing the domestic total of the live-action superhero reboot starring Megan Fox and Will Arnett to $174.6 million.

The Warner Bros. young-adult novel adaptation "If I Stay," starring Chloe Grace Moretz, took third place in its third weekend with $5.7 million.

The weekend's only new release, Freestyle's musical drama "The Identical," dismally debuted in 11th place with $1.9 million. The film starring Ray Liotta and Ashley Judd failed to achieve the successes of similar faith-based films as "Heaven Is for Real," "God's Not Dead" and "Son of God" released this year.

1. "Guardians of the Galaxy," $10.2 million ($11.5 million international).
2. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," $6.5 million ($8.7 million international).
3. "If I Stay," $5.7 million ($4.6 million international).
4. "Let's Be Cops," $5.4 million ($4.1 million international).
5. "The November Man," $4.2 million ($1 million international).
6. "As Above, So Below," $3.7 million ($1.6 million international).
7. "When the Game Stands Tall," $3.7 million.
8. "The Giver," $3.6 million ($1.8 million international).
9. "The Hundred-Foot Journey," $3.2 million.
10. "Lucy," $1.9 million ($25.5 million international).

Chicago actress dies after being struck by tree

CHICAGO (AP)—Molly Glynn, an accomplished Chicago theater actress who also played a recurring role as a doctor on the TV series "Chicago Fire," has died after a tree toppled by a powerful storm struck her as she rode her bike in a forest park. She was 46.

Glynn

Glynn was with her husband, Joe Foust, when the storm rolled quickly into the area, just north of Chicago, the executive director of First Folio Theatre and a close family friend, David Rice, said Sunday.

"Molly was one of the most loving and generous people in the Chicago theater scene," he said. "She was incredibly talented—incredibly versatile. She could handle both comedy and the deepest darkest, dramas."

Glynn's husband called 911 just before 4 p.m. on Friday to say his wife had been injured, Cook County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Sophia Ansari said. NorthShore Evanston Hospital spokeswoman Colette Urban confirmed Glynn died Saturday.

Glynn had an audition earlier in the day Friday and she and her husband had decided to go for a ride. The inclement weather took them by surprise and the tree slammed into Glynn as the couple sought to ride to safety, Rice said.

"It was a freak accident and a matter of being in the wrong place at the wrong time," he said.

Others in the theater community in and around Chicago also expressed shock and sadness.

"It is an incalculable loss," said Michael Halberstam, the artistic director of the Glencoe-based Writers Theatre. "She was a loving mother and wife and everyone who met her fell in love with her."

Glynn grew up in Hartford, Connecticut, Rice said. In addition to her husband, she is also survived by two teenage sons.

Men who use dating sites offer tips for women online

DEAR ABBY: "Surfing in Petersburg, Ill." (June 17) raised good points about men who use online dating services. However, many of the things she pointed out could also be said of women who put their ads on the sites. The pickings are just as slim on our side of the fence. My hints to the "fairer sex":

(1) Don't overdo your makeup and hair in your photos. While some makeup can enhance a lady's look, we aren't seeking someone who looks ready to go trick-or-treating or perform as a clown in the circus.

(2) Decent men don't want to see ALL of your physical attributes on these sites. Dress appropriately for your age and don't allow the "girls" to burst out of your low neckline.

(3) Don't start your first conversation with, "What do you do and how much money do you make?" Intelligent men will realize that you are not as concerned with finding a quality guy as you are with looking for a fat wallet.

(4) You don't have to speak perfectly, but the teen lingo and texting abbreviations are a real turn-off.

(5) Don't constantly complain about your ex. It provides insight as to why he opted to break off your relationship or file for divorce.

DAN IN OHIO

DEAR DAN: Thanks for the input. I had a hunch my male readers would react to "Surfing's" observations. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: To the ladies, I advise: Don't post a 10-year-old photo as being the way you currently look. And don't lie about your marital status or the number of times you've been married. These will come back to haunt you.

"A few extra pounds" does not mean 100 pounds overweight. If you are obese, admit it and say you are working on getting the weight off—and make sure you are.

EARLE IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: For women who post photos of their pets, it's great that you love them, but I'm only looking to date their OWNER. Same thing for travelogue photos with no one in them — what's the point? And if you say you are active with an athletic body, I'd like to see it. Descriptions can be subjective, and your perception might be different from mine.

DONE MY TIME ONLINE

DEAR ABBY: Selfies in the bathroom mirror are tacky. Have a friend take a picture of you. Avoid taking photos of specific body parts (lips, feet, etc.). It's low-class.

Describe yourself in detailed terms. Every woman says she's down-to-earth, decent-looking, caring and smart. A little originality goes a long way!

LOOKING IN LANSING, MICH.

DEAR ABBY: A woman should never post her previous wedding picture when looking for a new life partner. Photos with the ex that you've ripped down the middle or cropped don't work any better. We can still see his arm around you holding the 40-ounce beer, and it's not a good image for us.

And ladies, if you're looking for someone to sweep you out of that crappy life you're in, forget it. Fix your life first to the point where you can enjoy it by yourself, and then look for someone to share it with. We guys like our fixer-uppers to be houses or cars, not our women.

FOUND MY QUEEN ON A SITE

DEAR ABBY: I was taken aback by "Surfing's" advice against facial hair. My beard is part of who I am. Assuming it is "hiding something" signals you may have trust issues with men. If you don't like what you see, move on!

HAPPILY HIRSUTE IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

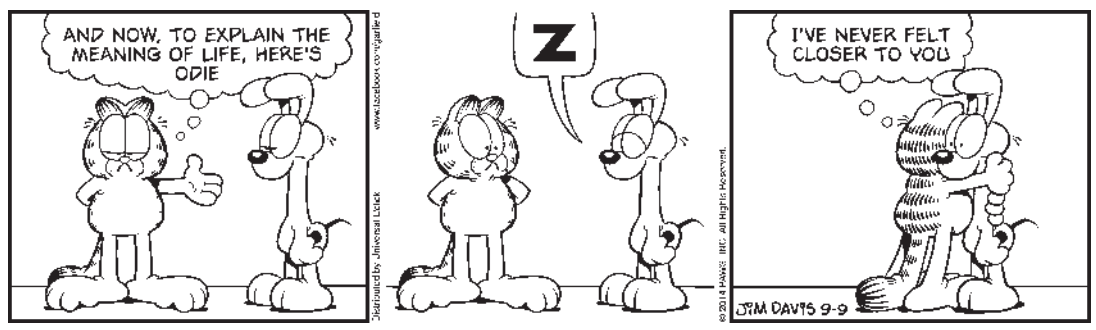
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HI, CALVIN! AREN'T YOU EXCITED ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL? LOOK AT ALL THESE GREAT SCHOOL SUPPLIES I GOT! I LOVE HAVING NEW NOTEBOOKS AND STUFF!
ALL I'VE GOT TO SAY IS THEY'RE NOT MAKING ME LEARN ANY FOREIGN LANGUAGES! IF ENGLISH IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME, THEN BY GOLLY, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD!
EVERYONE SHOULD SPEAK ENGLISH OR JUST SHUT UP, THAT'S WHAT I SAY!
YOU SHOULD MAYBE CHECK THE CHEMICAL CONTENT OF YOUR BREAKFAST CEREAL.
THEY CAN MAKE ME GO UNTIL GRADE EIGHT, AND THEN, FFFT, I'M OUTTA HERE!

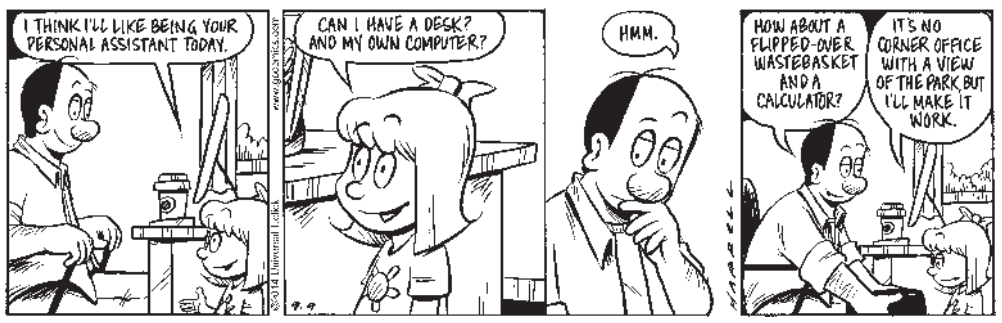
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I THINK I'LL LIKE BEING YOUR PERSONAL ASSISTANT TODAY.
CAN I HAVE A DESK? AND MY OWN COMPUTER?
HMM.
HOW ABOUT A FLIPPED-OVER WASTEBASKET AND A CALCULATOR?
IT'S NO CORNER OFFICE WITH A VIEW OF THE PARK, BUT I'LL MAKE IT WORK.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

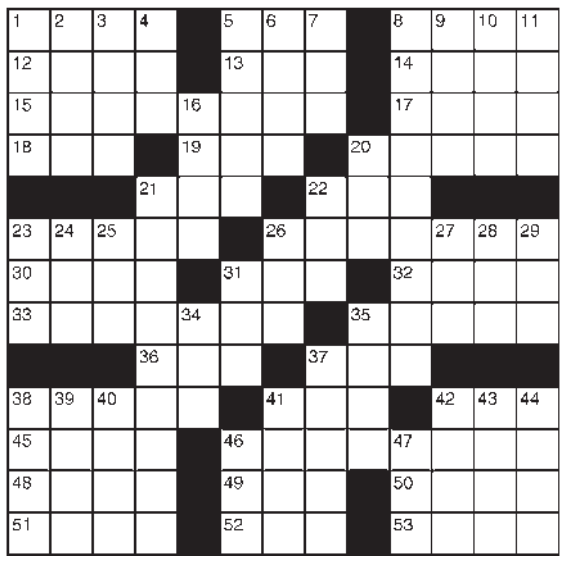
ACROSS
1 Suspend
5 "The Chew" airer
8 Elite alternative
12 Press
13 Paid player
14 Paradise
15 Funnel-shaped flowers
17 Bivouac structure
18 Away from NNW
19 In addition
20 Give a speech
21 Glutton
22 Pair
23 Insurgent
26 Big number
30 Send forth
31 Upper surface
32 Sea eagle
33 Iowa city
35 Micro-waved, slangily
36 Superman foe Luthor
37 Not well lit
38 Place
41 That man's
42 Fuel stat
45 Sacred song
46 Solicit
48 Grand tale
49 Joan of —
50 Gumbo ingredient
51 Strike from the text
52 Homer's interjection
53 Encounter

DOWN
1 Rose fruits
2 War god
3 Memorandum
4 Wilde-beest
5 Mimicry
6 Actor Pitt
7 Romaine lettuce
8 Oil
9 Thought
10 Penny
11 Initial stake
16 Hammer's target
20 Barn bird
21 Peevishness
22 Gratuity
23 Scarlet
24 Ostrich's cousin
25 Clothing protector
26 A Stooge?
27 Annoy
28 Indivisible
29 Actor Beatty
31 Monkey "suit"
34 Post-proof abbr.
35 Pending, as a decree
37 Discard unceremoniously
38 Lean-to
39 Kind
40 Painter Nolde
41 Villain's enemy
42 Karaoke need
43 Ponder (over)
44 Summertime pest
46 Tablet
47 Huck's pal

Solution time: 22 mins.

.	A	M			W	F	R			B	A	B	A
A	G	A	R			A	L	A		I	C	O	N
V	E	T	O			G	O	T		K	E	P	T
A	D	·	I	C	C			N	I	S	I		
				M	C	P			K	U	N	G	F	U
M	A	C	A	D	A	M			M	I	N	E	S
A	_	C	T			D	O	G			B	A	T	E
S	O	R	I	S			M	A	N	O	W	A	R
H	E	E	H	A	W			G	U	T			
				E	W	A	N			S	T	I	C	K
S	P	I	T			T	E	E			O	D	I	N
P	O	L	O			C	A	N			M	O	T	E
Y	E	L	P			H	—	S				L	Y	E

Yesterday's answer 9-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Williams, 34; Michael Buble, 39; Eric Stonestreet, 43; Hugh Grant, 54.

Happy Birthday: Your ability to assess situations and mediate will lead to victory. Altering the way you handle money and health matters will bring about a better lifestyle and opportunities to explore new possibilities. Emotions will be difficult to control, but will also help you address and rid yourself of pending problems that have contributed to stress. Focus on the positive. Your numbers are 4, 10, 18, 27, 33, 36, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't keep secrets. Getting everything out in the open will give you a clear conscience to move ahead with the changes you've been contemplating. Socializing and networking will bring you in contact with people who have something worthwhile to offer. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Volunteer something unusual that you have to offer. The people you meet along the way will be impressed with your services, talent and insight. A new partnership will be beneficial as long as you keep the contributions equal. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take it upon yourself to connect with people that you know have something to offer or groups you feel you can contribute to successfully. Don't be shy regarding your skills, but present what you can do in a skillful, diplomatic manner. ✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your interest in foreign cultures and philosophies will spark your curiosity regarding courses, traveling and joining in events that can broaden your knowledge. Making an unusual change to the way you look will grab attention. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Handle money matters carefully. Good fortune will come to you from an unusual source. Listen to complaints and look for solutions that won't compromise anyone's position. Don't be afraid to make a substantial move if it will benefit you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Guard your money and possessions. Changing the way you do your job is encouraged. Avoid anyone looking for an argument or trying to push you into doing things you don't want to do. Poor information will lead you down the wrong path. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Indulge in things that will expand your mind and your friendships with people from different backgrounds. Refuse to let someone bully you or make you feel guilty for wanting to do things your way. Change will be rewarding. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Promote the skills, talents and project you enjoy doing the most. An opportunity to begin a new partnership or business may entice you, but practicality must be considered. Taking on too much will cost you and jeopardize your chance for success. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Taking care of other people's affairs will bring you added benefits, but you are best to refrain from letting anyone interfere in your personal matters. The changes you make at home won't please everyone, but will benefit you financially. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your opinions to yourself until you have facts and figures worked out to back your theory. Use your insight and expertise to gather difficult information. Money will come to you from an unexpected source. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take pride in what you do and you will avoid criticism. Look at your current work situation and you will find a way to use your skills to suit the changes going on in your life. Diversification will lead to a better lifestyle. ✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be sensitive to what people do and how they treat you. Hold off committing to a deal that hasn't been fleshed out and put on paper. Be as open and honest as possible when dealing with relationships. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an imaginative dreamer. You are courageous, intuitive and relentless.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					7			
		8		1			3	
	7	1	4			9		
		5		8	1			3
	6						2	
2			3	9		4		
		6			8	1	5	
	2			5		6		
			7					

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	7	9	1	8	6	3	2	4
6	4	3	7	2	9	8	1	5
1	8	2	4	3	5	7	6	9
8	2	6	5	1	4	9	7	3
4	5	7	9	6	3	2	8	1
3	9	1	8	7	2	5	4	6
2	1	4	3	9	7	6	5	8
7	3	5	6	4	8	1	9	2
9	6	8	2	5	1	4	3	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CAPTURED BY TELESCOPE Solution: 14 letters

S	D	C	O	U	R	A	N	U	S	E	C	A	P	S
O	I	D	A	R	N	N	G	A	L	I	L	E	O	R
E	S	G	E	A	R	N	R	U	T	A	S	L	E	A
L	H	C	N	Y	V	E	N	U	S	R	A	F	V	T
B	R	L	O	A	E	T	I	Ⓢ	E	R	R	I	A	S
B	O	U	T	W	L	N	Ⓡ	V	S	A	S	S	C	A
U	L	S	O	Y	S	Ⓐ	I	Y	C	I	T	T	N	T
H	O	T	H	K	Ⓜ	N	S	T	B	E	N	C	O	E
E	C	E	P	L	U	T	I	L	R	T	U	I	C	L
Y	A	R	X	I	E	N	E	O	S	E	O	M	O	L
K	H	L	A	M	G	L	I	V	S	N	M	S	M	I
S	T	L	S	E	I	D	K	I	A	A	A	O	E	T
T	R	C	I	G	S	T	C	E	L	L	O	C	T	E
O	A	T	H	G	I	N	O	W	G	P	A	S	T	N
N	E	T	S	T	E	R	R	E	S	T	R	I	A	L

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Antenna, Asteroids, Cluster, Collect, Color, Comet, Concave, Cosmic, Dish, Earth, Galileo, Gear, Glass, Hubble, Mars, Milky Way, Mount, Night, Past, Photon, Planet, Radio, Refracting, Rock, Satellite, Saturn, Scan, Search, Signal, Site, Sky, Solar, Space, Stars, Systems, Terrestrial, Universe, Uranus, Venus, View, Visible Light, X-ray

Yesterday's Answer: Closest

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 37, 38, 39 or 40 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Taekwondo Instructor
$10.00/hour. Email Resume to
bluedragon@live.co.kr

---

(1) Operation Manager $9.50-$10/hr, and (3) Camera operators, Television, Video and Motion Picture - $5.55/hr. Mail Saipan TV Production, PMB 272 Box 10000 Saipan.

---

2 Auto (Radiator) Repairer: $5.55-$6.05/hr. At least five years of experience required. Email resume to grace@hanmisaipan.com.

---

5 Cook (Korean/Japanese cuisine): $5.55/hr. Must be proficient in Korean or Japanese cuisine. At least 2 years' professional experience required. Email resume to chinayanbian@hanmisaipan.com.

Looking for a reliable caregiver for elderly woman. Duties include: help with administering medication, moving (bathroom/shower), light housekeeping related only to the elderly's needs. Live out. Please respond with salary expectations and experience. Serious inquiries only. Work schedule can be flexible. Call 483-3911, ask for Frank or Fran.

1-AutoCad Operator - $6.05/hr. Minimum of 10 years experience. 1-General Manager - $910.00/biweekly. Minimum of 5 years experience. Fluent in Korean. Fax resume to 234-9796. Kimko Ent. Inc.

Ernst & Young (CNMI), Inc.
Position Title: Administrative/ Accounting Clerk
QUALIFICATIONS:
Holder of a Bachelor's Degree. Must have at least two (2) years work experience in public accounting office. Must have at least five (5) years work experience in administrative position and extensive exposure working with company executives Must have more than five (5) years experience in accounting work. Must be knowledgeable in income tax return preparation and compilation of financial statements. Must be knowledgeable in various accounting software such as Quickbooks, Peachtree, FAS & tax software. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience, beginning at $5.55/hour. Please mail your resume at P.O. Box 503198 Saipan, MP 96950

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
(2) Beautician
with 5 years experience. $5.55/hr.
Please submit resume to Bespren Development dba Exquisite Beauty Salon, located in Middle Road, beside Poon's Restaurant.
No phone call please.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
(2) Mason
(3) Carpenters
(1) Auto Electrician
with 5 years experience. $5.55/hr.
Please submit resume to Bespren Development dba Five Star Builders Corporation, located in Middle Road, beside Poon's Restaurant.
No phone call please.

CAR FOR SALE
(Moving to the States)
2008 Element, Great Shape
Asking Price: $12,000 or best offer
If interested, please call:
287-1915 and ask for **Ric**

CHONG'S CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement

Two (2) TECHNICIANS – AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION
- Install, service and repair of Central Air-conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Systems
- Repair and service of Chilled Water Air-conditioning System
- Perform repair and trouble analysis of VAV and VVT Control Systems
- Perform Computer-based Control System

Other requirements:
- College Graduate
- Minimum 6-year work experience required
- Must possess good communication skill

E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
$450/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft **$500**/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security exduded**

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) CAD Manager – Required Bachelor's degree plus 5 years experience.
(2) CAD Operator – Required Bachelor's degree plus 1 year experience.
Proficiency in AutoCAD 13, Google Sketchup 2013 and Microsoft Office. Respond to N15 Architects by Email to admin@n15architects.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Elliot Systems, LLC
Job Title: Mechanical Engineer
Salary: $14.25 per hour
Opening Date: 9/4/2014
Closing Date: 9/17/2014

Job Description
Bachelor Degree in Engineering (or may be foreign equivalent), with 2 years work experience. Preferably Certified Engineers. Work on power-producing machines, such as electric generators, internal combustion engines, and steam and gas turbines. Will also work on other power-using machines.

Send resume to Elliot Systems, LLC.
P.O. Box 5568 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950

CGI, INC.
Job Vacancy Announcement

(2) House Worker. High School graduate w/ 5yrs of work related experience. Must have own transportation to job sites. Must be able to work flexible days, hours and willing to work on holidays and weekends. Salary: $5.55.

Please submit your resume to tes_cabaltica@hotmail.com or apply at V.S. Sablan Plaza in Chalan Piao. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:

(1) Office Manager
Minimum 5 years work related experience, flexible working hours, must be familiar with Office and Hotel Management. Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning and resource allocation, administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records. Designing forms and other office procedures and terminology.

(1) General Maintenance
Minimum 3 years work related experience. Knowledge of materials, methods, and the tools involved in the construction or repair of houses, building or other structures.

Please mail resume with job references to PMB 173 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950 Villora Condotel Residence LLC

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

OPENING DATE: AUGUST 12, 2014 * CLOSING DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2014 TIME: 4:30 PM
SALARY AT $50,000.00 - $60,000.00 UNGRADED
(Commensurate with education and experience)

"COMPTROLLER"

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports,* the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA *Sports*. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

WHATZIT Solution: Chain of command

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

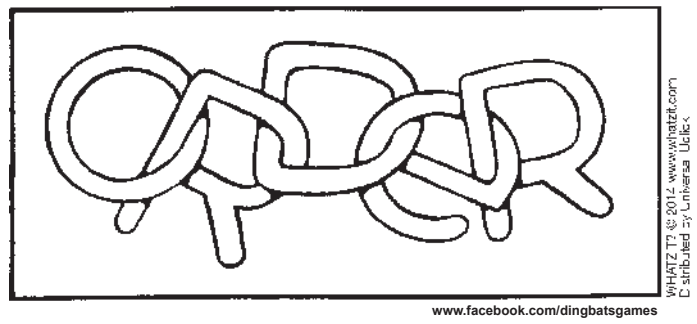
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Bryant's FGs lift Falcons past Saints in OT

AP

Atlanta Falcons kicker Matt Bryant (3) walks off the field after kicking the game-winning field goal against the New Orleans Saints during overtime of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014, in Atlanta. The Atlanta Falcons won in overtime 37-34.

ATLANTA (AP) — Matt Bryant kicked a 51-yard field goal on the final play of regulation, then booted a 52-yarder in overtime to give the Atlanta Falcons a 37-34 victory over the New Orleans Saints.

In another thriller between the NFC South rivals Sunday, Matt Ryan threw for a franchise-record 448 yards, leading the Falcons to just their fourth victory over the Saints in the last 17 meetings. This one was particularly sweet for Atlanta (1-0) coming off a miserable 4-12 season, its first losing campaign since 2007.

The teams combined for 17 points in the final 2:50 of the fourth quarter to force overtime. The Saints (0-1) got the ball first, but Marques Colston fumbled after catching a pass over the middle. The Falcons recovered at the Saints 38; after three plays gained only 4 yards, Bryant booted through another long field goal.

Bills 23, Bears 20, OT

In Chicago, Fred Jackson set up Dan Carpenter's field goal in overtime with a 38-yard run to the 1, and the Bills stunned the Bears.

The Bears (0-1) had just punted to open the extra period and Buffalo took over on its 22. The Bills (1-0) got to the Chicago 39 when Jackson turned toward the left side and broke off his big run, pushing safety Chris Conte out of the way twice inside the 10 before being knocked out of bounds at the 1.

Carpenter won it with a 27-yarder.

Steelers 30, Browns 27

In Pittsburgh, Shaun Suisham drilled a 41-yard field goal as time expired.

The Steelers blew a 24-point halftime lead as the Browns rallied behind quarterback Brian Hoyer, but escaped thanks to some great plays from Ben Roethlisberger and wide receiver Markus Wheaton.

Roethlisberger hit Wheaton twice on the winning drive, including a 20-yarder that put Suisham in range to send the Browns to their 10th straight season-opening loss.

Roethlisberger passed for 365 yards and a touchdown.

Hoyer threw for 230 yards and a score and played brilliantly at times in the second half in a performance that should strengthen his grip on the starting job over rookie Johnny Manziel.

Bengals 23, Ravens 16

In Baltimore, A.J. Green caught a 77-yard touchdown pass from Andy Dalton, and the Bengals blew a 15-point lead before bouncing back. Green got behind cornerback Chykie Brown, who was pressed into a starting role for the injured Lardarius Webb. The ball popped from Green's grasp before he gathered it in.

That TD, along with the 2-point conversion, came 48 seconds after Baltimore newcomer Steve Smith caught an 80-yard touchdown pass from Joe Flacco.

Following Green's score, Flacco took the Ravens to the Cincinnati 16 before he was sacked on fourth down.

Mike Nugent kicked five field goals for a 15-0 halftime lead and the Bengals ended a four-game losing streak in Baltimore.

Dolphins 33, Patriots 20

In Miami Gardens, Fla., Knowshon Moreno rushed for 134 yards and a touchdown, Ryan Tannehill threw for two scores and the Dolphins overpowered New England after halftime.

The Dolphins (1-0) outscored New England 23-0 in the second half.

Tannehill had touchdown throws to Lamar Miller and Mike Wallace as Miami debuted a faster-paced offense. The Dolphins' defense made four sacks, all in the second half, and recovered two fumbles.

Tom Brady threw a scoring pass to Rob Gronkowski, and Shane Vereen had a TD rushing for New England.

It was New England's first loss in an opener since 2003, and marks the first time the Patriots (0-1) will not be at least tied for the AFC East lead since Week 3 of 2012.

Broncos 31, Colts 24

In Denver, Peyton Manning threw three touchdown passes to tight end Julius Thomas in the first half. In his second try, Manning beat his old team and joined Brett Favre as the only quarterbacks to beat each of the current 32 NFL franchises.

The Broncos raced to a 24-0 lead thanks to Thomas, then turned to their revamped defense to fend off a furious comeback attempt by Andrew Luck, who was working wonders behind a patchwork offensive line.

Luck found Hakeem Nicks for a 9-yard scoring strike with 3:26 remaining. But Indy's last drive stalled at midfield when rookie Bradley Roby broke up a fourth-down pass to Reggie Wayne.

Eagles 34, Jaguars 17

In Philadelphia, Nick Foles threw a 68-yard touchdown pass to Jeremy Maclin in the fourth quarter and the Eagles rallied from a 17-0 second-half deficit.

Chad Henne threw two touchdown passes to rookie Allen Hurns in the first quarter and the Jaguars (0-1) dominated the defending NFC East champion Eagles (1-0) in the first two quarters.

But whatever Chip Kelly said to his players at halftime worked.

The Eagles scored TDs on their first two possessions in the third quarter. Cody Parkey hit a 51-yard field goal on his first career attempt in the fourth quarter to tie it 17-17.

Then Foles made a perfect deep throw to a wide-open Maclin for the longest pass of his career to put the Eagles ahead 24-17.

Texans 17, Redskins 6

In Houston, rookie Alfred Blue blocked a punt and returned it for a touchdown and J.J. Watt lived up to his massive new contract to help Texans snap a 14-game losing streak.

The Texans led 7-6 after a 76-yard touchdown reception by DeAndre Hopkins in the second quarter. Blue blocked Washington's punt on the next drive, scooped it up and returned it 5 yards for a touchdown to push the lead to 14-6 in Bill O'Brien's first game as an NFL head coach.

Watt had a sack, blocked an extra point, recovered a fumble and swatted down a pass in his first game since signing a six-year, $100 million contract Monday. First overall pick Jadeveon Clowney had a tackle for a loss in the first half before leaving with a knee injury.

Robert Griffin III threw for 267 yards, but Washington was done in by two second-half fumbles in Jay Gruden's debut as an NFL head coach.

Vikings 34, Rams 6

In St. Louis, wide receiver Cordarrelle Patterson ran for 102 yards on three carries with a 67-yard scoring run off a simple pitchout and the Vikings opened impressively under new coach Mike Zimmer.

The Rams handled Adrian Peterson, limiting the star runner to 75 yards on 21 carries. They had zero luck with Patterson, who had three touchdowns rushing as a rookie.

Rams quarterback Shaun Hill lasted one half as the stand-in starter for Sam Bradford, missing the rest of the game with a thigh injury and leaving untested Austin Davis in charge. Hill's last pass was intercepted by Josh Robinson with 1:09 to go in the half, setting up Matt Cassel's 8-yard pass to Greg Jennings for a 13-0 lead.

Titans 26, Chiefs 10

In Kansas City, Mo., Jake Locker threw for 266 yards and two touchdowns, while Alex Smith was intercepted three times.

Locker picked apart a defense that lost linebacker Derrick Johnson and defensive tackle Mike DeVito to Achilles tendon injuries. Locker was 22 of 33 and found eight targets, including former Chiefs wide receiver Dexter McCluster.

Kendall Wright and Delanie Walker had TD catches for the Titans, and Ryan Succop was perfect on four field-goal attempts against the team that released him last weekend.

Smith was 19 of 35 for 202 yards and a touchdown for a Chiefs offense missing suspended wide receiver Dwayne Bowe and right tackle Donald Stephenson.

Jets 19, Raiders 14

In East Rutherford, N.J., Chris Ivory burst through a few tackle attempts for a 71-yard touchdown run midway through the fourth quarter, and the Jets' defense clamped down on Oakland rookie quarterback Derek Carr.

With still a one-score game, Ivory rushed up the middle and appeared stopped, but slipped a few would-be tacklers on his way to the end zone. A 2-point conversion failed, but the Jets held on to win their season opener.

Geno Smith threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Chris Johnson as the Jets sent the Raiders to their 14th straight loss in the Eastern time zone.

Carr held his own in the first half, but the Jets pressured him throughout the final two quarters. He finished 20 of 32 for 151 yards and touchdown throws to Rod Streater and James Jones.

Panthers 20, Buccaneers 14

In Tampa, Fla., Derek Anderson filled in nicely for injured Cam Newton, throwing for 230 yards and two touchdowns.

Despite rallying with two late TDs, it was an ugly debut for the Bucs (0-1) under coach Lovie Smith. The defense applied little pressure on Anderson, and an offense that was among the worst in the NFL in 2013 showed few signs of improvement until midway through the fourth quarter.

With Newton cheering from the sideline after being held out because of a rib injury suffered in preseason, Anderson completed 24 of 34 passes with no interceptions and one sack. The 10th-year pro tossed threw for TDs of 5 yards to Greg Olsen and 26 yards to rookie Kelvin Benjamin for defending NFC South champion Carolina (1-0).

49ers 28, Cowboys 17

In Arlington, Texas, Colin Kaepernick threw two touchdown passes to Vernon Davis, one right after the first of three interceptions of Tony Romo.

The 49ers (1-0) also got a 35-yard fumble return on the second play of the game when Chris Culliver picked up a loose ball stripped from DeMarco Murray. They led 21-3 after the first quarter despite running just four offensive plays.

Coming off a spotty preseason for his offense, Kaepernick was efficient if not prolific, going 16 of 23 for 201 yards without an interception.

Romo was playing his first meaningful game for the Cowboys (0-1) since back surgery in December.

Horschel holds on for title at BMW Championship

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, Colo. (AP)—The bad swing a week ago is a distant memory. The blown lead Sunday—that wasn't enough to derail Billy Horschel, either.

Horschel let a three-shot lead drop to nothing early in the final round of the BMW Championship before rebounding for a two-stroke victory over Bubba Watson. Horschel shot a 1-under 69 and finished at 14-under 266 to put himself in prime position for the FedEx Cup title and its $10 million bonus at the Tour Championship next week.

"If I were a betting man, I'd put some money on me," said Horschel, who made $1.44 million for his second career PGA Tour victory.

Horschel heads into the final week of the playoff chase in second place in the points standings thanks to the victory and his tie for second a week ago - when he chunked a 6-iron well short on the final hole at TPC Boston, squandering a chance to win or force extra holes with playoff leader Chris Kirk.

This time, nursing a two-shot lead, the 27-year-old from Grant, Florida, smoothed a 9-iron into the middle of the 18th green and the only drama was whether he'd have time for a quick pit stop before he had to putt. Horschel sprinted up the fairway, ducked under the ropes and was back in plenty of time to two-putt and close out the victory.

"Obviously, after last week, a lot of people on Twitter were calling me a choker," Horschel said. "I didn't choke. I made one bad swing at a bad time. To start with a three-shot lead today and hold on means a lot."

About an hour earlier, it was another chunked shot that drastically altered the course of the tournament.

Ryan Palmer erased his opening three-shot deficit to Horschel and was tied after six holes, then again after 11.

Palmer was one behind as the final threesome walked down the 13th fairway, with Horschel buried in the right rough and Palmer buried in the left. Horschel hit his second shot safely on the green. Palmer shanked his into a small creek that runs in front of the green. He made double bogey to fall three behind.

"A shank? (Doesn't happen) very often," Palmer said. "But I'm doing with the downhill, down in the rough, I'm blaming it on that. But it happens. It's a fickle game."

That left Sergio Garcia, who cut a seven-shot deficit to two, as the last true threat, but his chance imploded on the par-5 17th - when he laid up, cooked his third shot over the green, then chipped into the water. He made a triple-bogey 8 - sullying a round of 67. He finished at 9 under, tied for fourth with Palmer (71), Rickie Fowler (68) and Jim Furyk (66).

"It's what happens when you're not mentally sharp," Garcia said about the decision not to go for the green in two. "Then, just a mistake after another mistake."

Horschel said losing the lead early didn't bother him much.

"That's why you have a three-shot lead. To have a little wiggle room," he said.

Unlike Palmer and Garcia, Watson, who shot 66, never truly threatened to take the lead, but he didn't blow up, either. He missed a 25-foot birdie putt on 18 that would've drawn him within one of Horschel, who was behind him in the fairway.

But Watson didn't make much all week. He finished 42nd in putting over four rounds. Still, he'll go to Atlanta third in the standings, joining Kirk, Horschel, Rory McIlroy and Hunter Mahan among the top five, all of whom control their destiny—meaning a win will give them the playoff title, as well.

"Maybe that's when I make my putts," Watson said.

Palmer's fourth-place finish moved him from 37th to 23rd in the standings.

But outside of Horschel, Sunday's biggest winner was third-place finisher Morgan Hoffman, who turned the old-school, mile-high layout at Cherry Hills into his personal pitch and putt over the weekend. He shot 7-under 63 on Sunday to go with his course-record 62 on Saturday and vaulted from 68th to 21st in the standings. He started the playoffs 124th, matching the worst starting ranking to make the 30-player Tour Championship in the eight-year history of the playoffs.

"That's the perfect way of putting it—`nothing to lose,'" Hoffman said. "Carefree and just go out and fire at pins."

McIlroy finished tied for eighth after a 66 that included a replay of the worst kind - a four-putt on the 12th green for the second straight day. Still, he's comfortably in the mix for next week.

Not so for Stuart Appleby, who missed an 18-foot birdie try on his last hole to end up in 31st. And Keegan Bradley's decision to withdraw Saturday because of a question over a drop he took in the opening round left him in 33rd, a five-spot drop.

AP

Billy Horschel hugs caddy Micah Fugitt after sinking his par putt on the18th green to win the 2014 BMW Championship Sept. 7, 2014 at Cherry Hills Country Club in Cherry Hills Village, Colo.

BMW Championship

Royals spoil Jeter's day with 2-0 win over Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—Yordano Ventura and the Kansas City Royals turned Derek Jeter Day into another disappointing defeat for the New York Yankees' captain in the dwindling days of his career.

Ventura pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning, and the AL Central leaders beat the Yankees 2-0 Sunday on a pair of unearned runs for their second shutout in the three-game series.

Kansas City scored due to errors by pitcher Shane Greene (4-3) in the second inning and right fielder Carlos Beltran in the third. The Royals, who won 1-0 Friday night on an unearned run following an error by third baseman Chase Headley, went 4-3 against the Yankees this year to take the season series for the first time since 1999.

Angels 14, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Mike Trout hit his 32nd homer and C.J. Wilson recovered from a slow start as Los Angeles completed a season sweep of Minnesota.

Howie Kendrick, who had three hits and four RBIs, and C.J. Cron also homered for Los Angeles. The AL West leaders had a season-high 19 hits and completed their fifth four-game sweep this season, extending a franchise record. They finished 7-0 against the Twins.

Tigers 6, Giants 1

In Detroit, rookie Kyle Lobstein earned his first major league win, and Miguel Cabrera homered for the third time in two days in Detroit's victory over San Francisco.

The Tigers beat the Giants for just the second time in 10 games, including San Francisco's sweep of Detroit in the 2012 World Series. Torii Hunter, getting a rare chance to face a starting pitcher older than he is, had three hits against Tim Hudson (9-10).

Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 2

In Los Angeles, Adrian Gonzalez hit a pair of three-run homers to reach 100 RBIs for the seventh time as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Arizona after Trevor Cahill held them hitless for more than five innings.

Zack Greinke (14-8) gave up two runs and six hits before he was lifted for a pinch-hitter during the Dodgers' three-run sixth. The 2009 AL Cy Young Award winner is 5-0 with a 1.59 ERA in his last six starts against the Diamondbacks.

Marlins 4, Braves 0

In Miami, Brad Hand pitched six sharp innings and Jarrod Saltalamacchia drove in two runs to lead Miami over Atlanta.

Hand (3-6) gave up five hits and struck out three. Donovan Solano and Marcell Ozuna each drove in a run for the Marlins, who won two of three in the series.

Indians 2, White Sox 0

In Cleveland, Carlos Carrasco came within one out of his first complete game as Cleveland finished a three-game sweep of Chicago.

Carrasco (7-4) allowed four hits, struck out eight and didn't walk a batter in 8 2-3 innings, extending his remarkable turnaround since rejoining the rotation last month.

Rangers 1, Mariners 0

In Arlington, Texas, Derek Holland pitched seven impressive innings in his second start off the disabled list as Texas beat Seattle to end an eight-game losing streak.

The Rangers gave interim manager Tim Bogar his first victory in his third game since Ron Washington resigned. Seattle, which had won five in a row, finished a 5-2 road trip.

Rockies 6, Padres 0

In Denver, Nolan Arenado homered and Franklin Morales pitched six spotless innings for his first win in two months as Colorado defeated San Diego.

Jackson Williams hit his first major league home run for the Rockies, who swept a three-game series for the first time since June 13-15 in San Francisco.

Colorado has won four straight, its longest streak since winning five in a row against Atlanta and the Giants in June. It was the Rockies' first three-game sweep at home this season.

Orioles 7, Rays 5, 11 innings

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Nelson Cruz hit his second homer of the game in the 11th inning and drove in seven runs as AL East-leading Baltimore avoided a three-game sweep.

After Nick Hundley drew a one-walk in the 11th, Cruz drove the next pitch from Cesar Ramos (2-6) over the wall in center for his 39th homer. Cruz has 101 RBIs this season.

Pirates 10, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Andrew McCutchen hit one of Pittsburgh's four homers as the Pirates moved into the second NL wild-card slot.

The Pirates swept the three-game series against the last-place Cubs to improve to 12-4 against Chicago this season, including 7-2 at Wrigley Field. Coupled with Milwaukee's 9-1 loss to St. Louis, they moved a half-game ahead of the Brewers for the last wild card.

Cardinals 9, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Adam Wainwright pitched a seven-hitter for St. Louis, and Peter Boujos had a key two-run triple.

The Cardinals took three of four in the series at Miller Park to open a five-game lead on Milwaukee. The Brewers have lost 11 of 12.St. Louis grabbed a 4-0 lead with four runs in the fourth against rookie Jimmy Nelson (2-7).

Nationals 3, Phillies 2

In Washington, Adam LaRoche homered twice as Washington avoided a series sweep.

Scott Hairston hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly off Philadelphia ace Cole Hamels (8-7) in the sixth inning. Hairston started in place of Bryce Harper because of his stellar numbers against the left-hander, who combined with three relievers for a no-hitter against Atlanta in his previous start.

Astros 4, Athletics 3

In Oakland, California, the Astros scored two runs in the ninth without a hit, including Dexter Fowler's bases-loaded walk for the tiebreaking run.

Jose Veras (4-0) pitched 1 2-3 scoreless innings as the Astros (63-80) took the rubber game of the weekend series. The victory means Houston's streak of 100-loss seasons ends at three.

Blue Jays 3, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Jose Bautista hit a three-run homer and R.A. Dickey pitched into the eighth inning, carrying Toronto to the victory.

Adam Lind added three hits for the Blue Jays, who dropped the first two games of the series after five consecutive wins. The Blue Jays moved within five games of Seattle for the AL's second wild card.

Mets 4, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Curtis Granderson and Anthony Recker homered as the Mets scored four unearned runs.

Zach Wheeler (10-9) pitched six solid innings, improving to 7-1 with a 2.21 ERA over his last 13 starts. The right-hander allowed one run and five hits.

Turkey's late surge stuns Australia at WCup

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)— Turkey forward Emir Preldzic made his second of two last-minute 3-pointers only 5 seconds from the finish to stun Australia 65-64 at the Basketball World Cup on Sunday, sending the reigning silver medalists into the quarterfinals.

Turkey will play Lithuania on Tuesday at the Palau Sant Jordi after Jonas Valanciunas scored eight of his 22 points in the fourth quarter as Lithuania held on to beat New Zealand 76-71.

In Madrid, Neto scored 21 points as Brazil exploded in the second half to rout Argentina 85-65 in what became a lopsided battle of South American rivals.

Serbia awaits Brazil on Wednesday after guard Bogdan Bogdanovic made four 3-pointers and scored 21 points to help eliminate Greece 90-72.

Australia was winning by five points with a minute to go when Preldzic struck from long range. And after Australia lost the ball for a shot clock violation, Preldzic let the final seconds wind down before unleashing another 3-pointer under duress to snatch the win in dramatic fashion.

Preldzic and guard Sinan Guler had 16 points each to lead the Turks. San Antonio Spur forward Aron Baynes scored 15 for Australia, which had been up by 12 points in the third period.

"We found Preldzic and Preldzic found incredible shots," said Turkey coach Ergin Ataman. "Of course that last shot was lucky for us. Sorry to Australia. Today I think they played better than us, but basketball is like this."

Argentina's Pablo Prigioni scored 15 of his 18 points in the first half to pace it to a 36-33 advantage.

But the second half was all Brazil, which went on two identical 18-6 bursts to start both the third and the fourth quarters to run out to a 20-point lead with under five minutes to go.

Brazil's three NBA centers— Varejao, Nene and Tiago Splitter— limited Argentina's Luis Scola to nine points, and Brazil's shooters picked Argentina apart.

Marquinhos Vieira added 13 points for Brazil, while Splitter and Barbosa chipped in with 10 each.

Greece needed a wild card invitation to compete in Spain, but it had appeared to re-establish its credentials as a perennial medal contender by winning all five games to claim first place in its group to reach this first knockout round.

But Serbia led throughout except when Greece managed to edge ahead by a point late in the second quarter, and the Greeks imploded in the fourth period, falling behind by as much as 20.

Milwaukee Bucks center Miroslav Raduljica added 16 points for the Serbs, while Milos Teodosic scored 13. Guard Nick Calathes had 14 points for Greece.

The first half between the two traditional European powers did not disappoint.

Both moved the ball with precision and shot high percentages of almost 60 percent from 2-point range in an impressive 20 minutes of basketball.

After drawing level several times, Nikos Zsis hit a 3-pointer to put Greece ahead for the first and only time with 1:02 left in the second period.

Serbia reclaimed the initiative immediately when Raduljica scored inside and Nikola Kalinic drove baseline to slam the ball and pick up a foul, letting him convert the 3-point play for a 46-42 lead at halftime.

AP

Lithuania's Donatas Motiejunas, top center, controls the ball during Basketball World Cup Round of 16 match between New Zealand and Lithuania at the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014.

Serbia then dominated the second half, turning what had been an evenly matched contest into an easy win.

Back in Barcelona, Lithuania lined up to observe the Tall Blacks' ceremonial "haka," and then went to work overpowering New Zealand with its taller inside players.

But guard Corey Webster, who finished with 26 points, spurred New Zealand's rally from 15 points down to take a one-point lead when Lithuania went scoreless for the first four minutes of the fourth quarter.

Valanciunas answered by making four free throws and two inside baskets for the reigning bronze medalists. The Toronto Raptors center also pulled in 13 rebounds and blocked three shots, while guard Martynas Pocius chipped in with 11 points.

SERENA

From Page 28

Wimbledon in 1990, Williams powered this way and that in her black-and-pink hightops. Wozniacki is the one training for the New York City Marathon, but she was tuckered out by the end.

Wozniacki may as well have been an extra in this Williams highlight reel. Points were directed by Williams, via serves that reached 120 mph (194 kph), forceful returns that backed Wozniacki into a corner when not producing outright winners, unreachable groundstrokes or the occasional volley.

"From a different planet," said Wozniacki's father, Piotr, who also coaches her. "Come on, there's no chance."

Yes, this was all about Williams. At times, it felt as if Wozniacki were there because, well, someone needed to be on the opposite side of the net.

They've been pals for years, and they hung out together in Miami—heading to the beach, watching an NBA playoff game—after both lost early at the French Open in May. Wozniacki says Williams helped her get over the end of her engagement to golf star Rory McIlroy. Williams said she planned to invite Wozniacki along for Sunday night's championship celebration.

"We're both going to do anything possible to win the match," said Wozniacki, a 24-year-old from Denmark who reached No. 1 in the rankings in 2010, a year after losing to Kim Clijsters in the U.S. Open final. "After the match, we're friends again."

Mouratoglou noted the obvious: It didn't matter one bit to Williams who she was facing.

"Yeah, they're friends," the coach said, "but on the other side, believe me, Serena has zero friends."

The last time she was at a major, Williams followed her early Wimbledon singles exit with an odd episode in doubles, appearing disoriented and quitting after three games because of what she called a "bug."

"After Wimbledon, I was just so disappointed," Williams said. "I also realized I just needed to relax a little more. I put a lot of pressure on myself. I don't have to put pressure on myself."

When she met with Mouratoglou after Wimbledon to discuss how to proceed, he recalled Sunday, "She coached me. She told me, `Look, you are a guy who likes challenges. I am so low. You should be motivated by that.'"

Since that chat in Paris, Williams has won 19 of 20 matches and three titles.

Only one number mattered to her Sunday night, though: 18.

FLIP TOP

From Page 28

triples at crunch time.

Flip Top scored 28 points in the pivotal fourth for its most productive output in a quarter and a big turnaround from 12-point production in the third. Flip Top was held to five field goals in the third period and failed to get a single basket from Jun Estolas, who was limited to two free throws. Before the meltdown, the Flip Top guard finished the first half with 22 points to give his team a 44-38 advantage.

SSFM overhauled the deficit in the third period behind its balance scoring. Five SSFM players nailed at least two field goals each in the third frame to grab the upper hand, but it could not keep the driver's seat in the end, as Estolas and Fidelino hit timely baskets for Flip Top.

Jerome Norita led SSFM's losing cause with his 26 point, while Celio Bisana added 18. Despite the loss, SSFM is still in the race for the finals berth, as the semis round has a round-robin format with the Top 2 teams after the playoffs advancing to the championship game.

Joining SSFM and Flip Top in the hunt for the finals ticket are Ghasias Brothers and elimination round top finisher and defending champion Ali'i. Ghasias Brothers and Ali'i were originally set to meet in another semis game last Saturday, but the match was rescheduled as the former had to play the continuation of its rained-out tiff against the Bandits for the last semis seat. Ghasias Brothers eventually won, 79-78.

Flip Top 84 – J. Estolas 36, Arciaga 13, Fidelino 10, D. Estolas 10, Gamboa 9, Capalad 2, Isip 2.

SSFM 81 – Norita 26, Bisana 18, Ong 11, Aguon 11, Espinosa 9, Tobias 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-23, 44-38, 56-61, 84-81.

LEE

From Page 28

dropped one set the entire tournament. She defeated New Caledonia's Lea Bolo in the two times they met in the finals, 6-0, 6-2 and 7-6 (2), 6-1.

Fellow junior netter Robie Schorr joined Lee for the top honor after being named the male student awardee while Pauline Kapileo bagged the Female Athlete of the Month.

Schorr became the CNMI's highest male finisher in the POJC, ending up fourth in both legs. He won the boys' U14 doubles crown after teaming up with Guam's Camden Camacho.

Kapileo, meanwhile, decided to conquer her fear of the water after signing up for Saipan Swim Club's adult learn to swim free program last July. She then joined seven other adult swimmers in completing their first open water swim last month.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	83	59	.585	—
New York	73	68	.518	9½
Toronto	73	69	.514	10
Tampa Bay	69	75	.479	15
Boston	63	80	.441	20½

Central Division

Kansas City	79	62	.560	—
Detroit	78	65	.545	2
Cleveland	74	67	.525	5
Chicago	63	79	.444	16½
Minnesota	61	82	.427	19

West Division

Los Angeles	87	55	.613	—
Oakland	80	62	.563	7
Seattle	78	64	.549	9
Houston	63	80	.441	24½
Texas	54	89	.378	33½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	80	61	.567	—
Atlanta	74	69	.517	7
Miami	69	72	.489	11
New York	68	75	.476	13
Philadelphia	66	76	.465	14½

Central Division

St. Louis	79	64	.552	—
Pittsburgh	74	68	.521	4½
Milwaukee	74	69	.517	5
Cincinnati	67	76	.469	12
Chicago	64	79	.448	15

West Division

Los Angeles	81	62	.566	—
San Francisco		78	65	.5453
San Diego	66	76	.465	14½
Arizona	59	84	.413	22
Colorado	59	84	.413	22

NFL STANDING

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	33	20
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	19	14
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	23	20
New England	0	1	0	.000	20	33

South

Tennessee	1	0	0	1.000	26	10
Houston	1	0	0	1.000	17	6
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	24	31
Jacksonville	0	1	0	.000	17	34

North

Cincinnati	1	0	0	1.000	23	16
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	30	27
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	27	30
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000	16	23

West

Denver	1	0	0	1.000	31	24
San Diego	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Oakland	0	1	0	.000	14	19
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	10	26

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	34	17
N.Y. Giants	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Washington	0	1	0	.000	6	17
Dallas	0	1	0	.000	17	28

South

Carolina	1	0	0	1.000	20	14
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	37	34
New Orleans	0	1	0	.000	34	37
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000	14	20

North

Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	34	6
Detroit	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	1	0	.000	20	23
Green Bay	0	1	0	.000	16	36

West

Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	36	16
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	28	17
Arizona	0	0	0	.000	0	0
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	6	34

BMW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, Colorado (AP)—Scores Sunday from the $8-million BMW Championship, played on the par 70, 7,352-yard Cherry Hills Country Club course:

FINAL

Billy Horschel	68-66-63-69—266
Bubba Watson	70-66-66-66—268
Morgan Hoffmann	72-72-62-63—269
Rickie Fowler	71-66-66-68—271
Jim Furyk	70-68-67-66—271
Sergio Garcia	68-64-72-67—271
Ryan Palmer	69-64-67-71—271
Rory McIlroy	67-67-72-66—272
Adam Scott	71-66-69-66—272
Jordan Spieth	67-70-68-67—272
Graham DeLaet	68-68-69-68—273
Angel Cabrera	71-72-66-65—274
Chesson Hadley	68-70-68-68—274
J.B. Holmes	71-68-67-68—274
Charl Schwartzel	72-66-70-66—274
Kevin Chappell	68-72-70-65—275
Ernie Els	70-69-69-67—275
Bill Haas	72-68-67-68—275
Martin Kaymer	68-70-64-73—275
Camilo Villegas	70-71-68-67—276
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Jimmy Walker	72-67-69-68—276
Ben Crane	70-70-68-69—277
Russell Knox	74-69-72-62—277
Seung-Yul Noh	70-71-67-69—277
John Senden	73-66-70-68—277
Henrik Stenson	68-69-72-68—277
Gary Woodland	67-73-68-69—277
Jerry Kelly	71-73-66-68—278
D. Summerhays	75-68-71-64—278
Harris English	71-71-67-70—279
George McNeill	71-69-69-70—279
Carl Pettersson	73-70-68-68—279
Cameron Tringale	70-73-68-68—279
Justin Rose	69-71-70-70—280
Tim Clark	71-69-70-71—281
Geoff Ogilvy	73-69-69-70—281
Charles Howell III	69-72-71-69—281
Chris Kirk	71-70-71-69—281
Graeme McDowell	73-72-69-67—281
Brian Stuard	71-69-71-70—281
Brendon Todd	73-67-72-69—281
Brian Harman	73-71-71-67—282
Zach Johnson	71-71-71-69—282
Chris Stroud	69-73-69-71—282
Stuart Appleby	71-71-70-71—283
Erik Compton	69-74-73-67—283
Matt Kuchar	71-73-70-69—283
Kevin Na	74-69-69-71—283
Matt Every	68-73-71-72—284
Ryan Moore	80-69-69-66—284
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Charley Hoffman	72-71-73-69—285
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Marc Leishman	74-69-69-73—285
Webb Simpson	73-72-69-71—285
Matt Jones	73-73-70-69—285
Patrick Reed	77-70-71-67—285
Russell Henley	68-74-76-69—287
Will MacKenzie	75-72-69-71—287
Hunter Mahan	75-70-71-71—287
Kevin Streelman	75-70-76-66—287
Steven Bowditch	72-77-70-69—288
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BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saipan Ice, Island Floral advance in DL caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Ice & Water and Island Floral survived the first playoff round in the DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 4 after ousting separate opponents last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Island Floral knocked off Blue Haus in the curtain-raiser, 101-78, to march into the quarterfinals, while Saipan Ice followed suit after dispatching the Gliders in the second game, 87-72.

Saipan Ice coasted to a 15-point victory despite trailing early in the match, 4-16. The Gliders held Saipan Ice to two field goals in the first eight minutes of the opening quarter, but lost the double-digit lead, as the former collapsed in the second canto. The Gliders, which still led by 9 after the first frame, 20-11, was scoreless in the first six minutes of the second quarter, as Saipan Ice managed to grab the upper hand by the end of the first half, 33-27.

Dan Barcinas led Saipan Ice's recovery, drilling 10 points in the second period. Barcinas had to step up on offense and team up with Derrick Rangamar, as Saipan Ice played without Jack Lizama, who is nursing a swollen right hand due to a bee sting.

The Gliders was also without key players Jun Estolas and big men Bart Demapan, Kae Bernardo, and Jimmy Tudela. Their presence was clearly needed, as the remaining Gliders players found themselves down by 17, 37-53, midway in the third canto with Barcinas and Rangamar continuing to do damage on offense.

Barcinas finished with a game-high 38 points, while Rangamar contributed 18. Saipan Ice led by as much as 20 early in the fourth and the Gliders failed to cut the lead to single digit, as the opposing teams just traded baskets in the majority of the final canto.

J.P. Villanueva paced the Gliders with his 19 points, while Mike Saturno and Melvin Cadiang tallied 17 and 16, respectively.

In the first game, Island Floral was all business right in the first quarter to take control of the match and never lost it.

Djay Ong and Jerome Norita combined for 17 points in the first quarter, which ended with Island Floral holding a 29-12 advantage. The lead ballooned to 22 at halftime, 48-26, with Ong adding 6 more points and his other teammates also finding their targets.

In the second half, Blue Haus never made headway to slice the deficit to a decent number, while Island Floral went for the kill, scoring 31 points in the fourth, its most production in a quarter.

Ong top-scored for Island Floral with his 24 points, while Norita logged 19. Blue Haus' Jesse Santos led all scorers with his 28 points.

Up next for Island Floral is TBK Mechanics and they will collide in the first game tomorrow at 6:30pm. In the second match at 8pm, Saipan Ice will take on the Destroyers. Winners of the Wednesday games will join San Antonio and Hite Jinro in the semifinals.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Ice's Dan Barcinas unloads a long jumper against the Gliders' J.P. Villanueva, left, and Adrian Palacios during the third quarter of their playoff game in the DL Corp. caging last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

First Game

Island Floral 101 – Ong 24, Norita 19, Aguon 10, Tabora 9, Bisana 8, Capalad 8, Lizama 8, Kaipat 7, Diaz 6.

Blue Haus 78 – Santos 28, Talania 16, E. Camacho 14, Hernandez 9, Moises 5, B. Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-12, 48-26, 79-52, 101-78.

Second Game

Saipan Ice 87 – Barcinas 38, Rangamar 18, N. Saralu 9, Kaipat 9, Pharmin 8, R. Saralu 3.

Gliders 72 – J. Villanueva 19, Saturno 17, Cadiang 16, Palacios 11, Chen 4, Cabrera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-20, 33-27, 58-43. 87-72.

Magic 8-Ball edges Titans to keep Thursday League lead

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Smoke Pub Magic 8-Ball squeezed out an 8-7 win over the Poseidon Titans in the weekly 2014 Budweiser Open 8-Ball Thursday League held last Thursday in various bars on the island.

A win in the two reverse doubles kept the Titans in the game as they tied the match at 7-7 to force a deciding game.

Magic 8-Ball, who started the season at fourth place, kept their composure and played more focused in the deciding doubles match to secure the win that hiked their record to 29-17 against the Titans' 27-18 slate.

Route33 Armatech Hustlers and Jokers Homeboyz also downed separate foes to remain within striking distance of the leaders.

The Hustlers trounced National Alamo Car Rental, 10-5, while the Homeboyz completed a 9-6 decision over Wild Bill's Wild Wild West.

Rout 33 Armatech now holds a 25-20 record trailing Smoke Pub and Poseidon by four and two wins, respectively. The Homeboyz' are at fourth with a 24-21 slate.

National Alamo Car Rental dropped to fifth with 22-23, while Wild Bill's is tied with the Barcode Breakers at sixth to seventh spots with similar 20-25 cards.

Jonny's Team SCS, which suffered a 10-5 demolition at the hands of the Barcode Breakers, remained at the cellar with a 13-32 card.

In the six-team Tuesday League, the Jokers IT&E Voyagers coasted to a 12-3 demolition of the Jonny's Crazy 8s (22-23) to hold a slim one-win edge over sister team Str8 Shooters.

The Voyagers hold a 31-14 mark, while the Shooters is one game behind at 30-15, followed closely by the 27-18 mark of Saipan TV Hustlers, which completed a 14-1 crushing of the hapless Smoke Pub Sang&D'Gang (14-31).

Smoke Pub Lanchun Girls are at the bottom of the six-team field with an 11-34 slate after absorbing an 11-4 beating from the Str8 Shooters.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Smoke Pub Magic 8-Ball remains on top of the weekly 2014 Budweiser Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

Eda lets others eat dust in SIS Fun Run

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Seiya Eda emerged as the fastest runner among the close to 200 who participated and braved the early morning downpour in the 13th Annual Saipan International School Fun Run held last Saturday in Marpi.

Eda led seven other age group winners that completed the 3.5-mile race from Banzai Cliff to Cowtown Raceway Park.

He clocked in 22:48 to rule the boys' under-18 division and finish 12 seconds ahead of closest pursuer, Saipan's barefoot runner Chang Wang Jang, who registered 23:00 to top the adult men's category.

Eda's time was 1:54 below Sean Smith's 20:54 record in last year's edition of the annual fun run, which is an annual fundraising event to support SiS' various projects.

Lorie Hutchinson was third best overall with 23:05 to claim top honors in the women's adult class, while Victoria Chentsova reigned in the girls' under-18 with a time of 28:05.

Rintaro Miyawaki and Malika Miyawaki won the boys' and girls' under-12 division with times of 23:13 and 27:39, respectively, while Ian Song and Sophia Lee earned the top spot in the boys' and girls' under-8 with records of 46:02 and 53:42 each.

Organizers thanked all who participated and students, parents, school staff, and teachers who volunteered for the successful staging of the annual event.

SIS personnel also thanked Saipan World Resort, Marianas Resort and Spa, DFS, The Coffee Room N106, Coca Cola, IT&E, Smile Marianas, Brabu Pharmacy, Deloitte, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods, Brother's Acupuncture Clinic, AIC Construction, Casa of Ate Song, Subway, The Law Office of Joshua Berger, Hardt Eye Clinic, Pacific Islands Club, The Hyatt Regency Saipan, Art & Yoga with Kim, National Office Supply, Okadaya, Salty Saipan, Micronesian Marine, and the ACA Corp. for their generous contributions.

JON PEREZ
Sophia Lee heads toward the finish line on her way to ruling the girls' 8-under division of the 13th Saipan International School Fun Run last Saturday at Banzai Cliff.

Bryant's FGs lift Falcons past Saints in OT

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Saipan Ice, Island Floral advance in DLX caging

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Serena wins 3rd US Open in row, 18th Slam

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—A couple of months before Serena Williams capped her dominant run to a third consecutive U.S. Open championship and 18th major singles title Sunday night, she sat down with coach Patrick Mouratoglou to decipher why the season had been such a struggle by her standards.

At the time, Williams was coming off a third-round loss at Wimbledon, which followed a second-round loss at the French Open, which followed a fourth-round loss at the Australian Open—and, when Grand Slam success defines a legacy, that simply wouldn't do. The quest to match Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova at 18 was weighing on her.

"It was definitely on my shoulders," Williams could acknowledge after that burden was gone. "It was definitely like, `Oh, get there. Get there. Get there.'"

She knew, of course, there was one more big event left in 2014, and a finite amount of time to turn things around before heading to Flushing Meadows. In some ways starting from scratch, Williams regrouped and stopped her mini-slump, never dropping more than three games in any set, including a 6-3, 6-3 victory over close friend Caroline Wozniacki in Sunday's final.

"When Serena is on her game," said the 10th-seeded Wozniacki, who admitted she was nervous in her second Grand Slam title match, "there's not much we can do."

Williams matched Evert's total of six U.S. Opens and became the first woman to win three in a row since Evert's four-title run from 1975-78.

Add in Williams' five titles apiece at Wimbledon and the Australian Open, plus two at the French Open, and only three players have more Slams: Margaret Court with 24, Steffi Graf with 22, and Helen Wills Moody with 19.

Ranked and seeded No. 1, Williams let Wozniacki keep things competitive for about five games but wound up compiling a hard-to-believe 29-4 edge in winners. Until a cross-court backhand in the final game, the only winners registered by Wozniacki came on aces.

When it was over, Williams dropped to her back behind the baseline, covering her hands with her face. Her first major trophy also came in New York, in 1999, when she was 17.

This time, Williams earned $4 million, a record in tennis—$3 million for the title, plus a $1 million bonus for having had the best results during the North American summer hard-court circuit.

A few weeks shy of her 33rd birthday, making the American the oldest major champion since Navratilova was 33 at

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AP
Serena Williams, of the United States, holds up the championship trophy after defeating Caroline Wozniacki, of Denmark, during the championship match of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014, in New York.

Flip Top draws first blood in semis round

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Flip Top eked out an 84-81 win over SSFM in the first game in the semifinal round of the 2014 DLX Invitational Basketball League last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Jun Estolas and Jun Fidelino lifted Flip Top to the victory, knocking in crucial free throws and triples, respectively. Estolas scored a game-high 36 points, including four straight free throws in the home stretch, while Fidelino drained Flip Top's last 6 points off his back-to-back treys and finished with 10 markers.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Flip Top's Frank Estanislao, left, and Jun Fidelino challenge the shot of SSFM's Djay Ong, while Flip Top's Jun Estolas stays down on defense during the first quarter of their game in the semis round of the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Flip Top had to rely on Estolas and Fidelino's fourth-quarter heroics, as it started the final canto facing a 5-point deficit, 56-61. Besides his four successive charities, Estolas also hit three field goals in the first five minutes of the fourth frame to bring Flip Top back in the game, while Ron Gamboa contributed three baskets, too. Directo Estolas and Mike Arciaga combined for the 6 other points of Flip Top in the early part of the fourth period, while Fidelino, who had only 4 points at the end of the third, made up for his so-so performance with back-breaking

See FLIP TOP on Page 26

Tennis' Lee, Schorr are August's top athletes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Carol Lee's dominating performance last month's 2014 Pacific Oceania Junior Championship in Fiji was enough reason for her to take the TSL Foundation-Northern Marianas Sports Association August Female Student Athlete of the Month.

Lee demolished her opponents at the Pacific Oceania Regional Training Centre in Lautoka where she claimed two titles to become the undisputed under-14 champion.

The 12-year-old only

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Lee

Schorr